The Middlebury Campus

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Charles Murray Visit Provokes Uproar

Organized Protest Derails Speech, Campus Faces Deep Divisions

MICHAEL O'HARA

Students, professors and community members participate in rally outside McCullough Student Center (top). Protests inside Wilson Hall disrupt Charles Murray's planned talk (bottom).

By Alex Newhouse & Ellie Reinhardt
Features Editor & Editor-in-Chief

On Feb. 22, the Middlebury College American Enterprise Institute Club published a group op-ed in The Campus that extended an "invitation" to the Middlebury College community "to encourage robust discussion and expose the Middlebury Community to diverse thoughts, opinions and understandings on the important topics of today," according to the authors. The event was a lecture by political scientist and American Enterprise Institute (AEI) WH Brady Scholar, Charles Murray.

Soon after the announcement of Murray's talk, both students and faculty began organizing in opposition. The reasons why Charles Murray sparked such passionate resistance and controversy are complicated and diverse, and motivations among those opposed to him were varied. Murray is considered one of the leading libertarian academics in the United States and has had significant influence on both political science and policymaking; for example, his work influenced the welfare debate during the 1990s.

Although he was invited to the College to speak on his most recent book, Coming Apart, which attempts to track and explain a growing divide between white "intellectual elite" and white working class people, Murray is best known for his work, "The Bell Curve." This book has been fiercely debated since its publication in 1994, as it posits links between intelligence and race based on differences in average IQ scores between races.

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PROTEST, TALK GARNER MEDIA ATTENTION

By Christian Jambora
Managing Editor

National news and media outlets have been spotlighting the on-campus protests against Charles Murray, a libertarian columnist and sociologist who, due to student demonstrations, was prevented from delivering a guest lecture on Thursday, March 2. The events and their aftermath drew attention from major publications and broadcast programs including *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Atlantic*, *The Boston Globe*, *The Washington Post*, PBS NewsHour and Fox News.

The majority of sources ran pieces denouncing the protest as well as the altercation that resulted in the neck injury of Allison Stanger, an international politics and economics professor who moderated the virtual question-and-answer session with Murray.

In his piece "A Violent Act on Free Speech" published in *The Atlantic*, Peter Beinart, a political columnist and contributing editor for the magazine, pointed to the protests as evidence that "something has gone badly wrong on the campus left."

Referring to the recent protests against a planned speech delivered by Milo Yiannopoulos at the University of California, Berkeley, Beinart wrote, "If what happened at Berkeley, and now at Middlebury, goes unchallenged, sooner or later, liberals will get shouted down too."

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SGA Proposes Appeals Process for Invited Speakers

By Will DiGravio
News Editor

Junior Senator Hannah Pustejovsky '18 introduced a bill at the March 3 meeting of the Student Government Association (SGA) that, if passed, would recommend that the College administration develop "an appeals process through which students can voice their dissent and disapproval of speakers, forums and public events that violate community standards, in order to create a system of checks and balances."

Pustejovsky drafted the bill in the wake of student protests that prevented Dr. Charles Murray from delivering a lecture on campus last Thursday. (See "Charles Murray Visit Provokes Uproar" for full coverage.)

According to Pustejovsky, the appeals process would serve as a forum through which students could present arguments against an invited speaker.

"If students feel as strongly about a speaker as they did this week, I was hoping to provide a forum in which they could express their thoughts in a case-like format, with evidence and an argument in order to support their need. Then, possible solutions could include an adjustment to the event, calling for a teach in or discussion panel that provides more than one viewpoint, or less institutional support for an event," she said. "I want to again stress that this is all in the very beginning stages and I hope to have further discussions with my constituents about what would best fit their needs."

At their March 5 meeting, the SGA Senate voted to form an ad hoc committee to draft a final version of the bill. Members of the committee include Pustejovsky, Wonnacott Senator Angie McCarthy '19, Brainerd Senator Kyle Wright '19.5, Sophomore Senator Emmanuel Duran '19, Junior Senator Lily Wilson '18, Feb Senator Alec Fleischer '20.5, Feb

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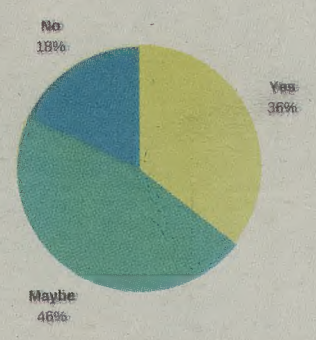
CAMPUS DINING POLL RESULTS REVEAL STRONG PREFERENCE FOR "OPEN DINING"

From Feb. 21-24, the Campus *conducted a voluntary student-wide survey to gather feedback on the potential changes to the dining system. Over 960 responses were recorded. Here is a sampling of the feedback we received.*

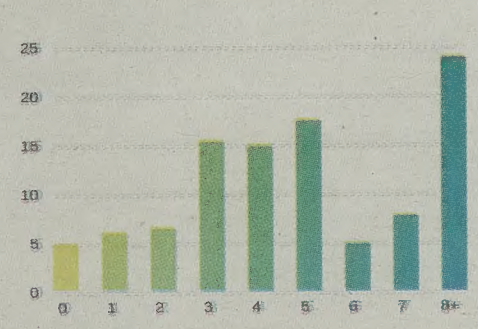
If you had the option to receive points to use at College-owned food services instead of the dining halls, would you do so?



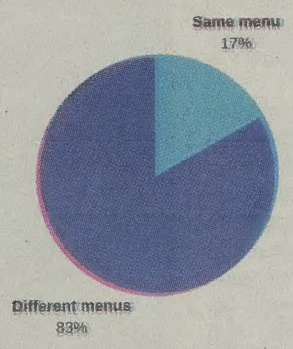
On a scale of 1-5, how integral do you think "open" dining halls are to the College's social scene?

4.44

On average, how many times per week do you get a drink or snack from the dining hall that is not a meal?



Should all three dining halls have the same menu or different?



Are you in favor of a meal plan WITHOUT the option for an "open" (unlimited) plan?

In Favor: 9.65%

Not In Favor: 90.35%

Visit middleburycampus.com for more statistics.

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The Feb. 26 meeting of the Student Government Association (SGA) began with the introductions of the newly elected Feb senator, Alec Fleischer '20.5, and the new Junior senator, Lily Wilson '18. Both expressed their excitement to work alongside fellow senators in the upcoming months. President Karina Toy '17 then announced that additional senate elections will be held near spring break, in which students will vote for every seat except Feb senators.

President Toy announced the results from her Financial Aid survey, which garnered a 31 percent response rate that represents around 10 percent of the student body and highlights the differences between first generation students and non-first generation students.

Such information may be used to promote the inclusion of Financial Aid activities during orientation or to encourage first-generation students to meet with Student Financial Services, yet the Senate will continue to discuss different possibilities.

The Senate then unanimously passed both the SGA Finance Committee Policies Bill and the Club Sports Funding Bill, both of which were sponsored by President Toy and the SGA Finance Committee (SGAFC) Chair, Kevin Benscheidt '17.5. The SGA Finance Committee Policies Bill aims to replace the previous SGA Finance Committee Guidelines to streamline funding decisions, while also limiting the SGAFC to funding only eight weekends of competitions per club sport season. The Club Sports Funding Bill implements a predetermined funding cap for each club sport based on its past three years' worth of expenditures.

The March 5 SGA meeting began with an update on ten-o'clock Ross. President Toy informed the Senate that the probation on the program would end on March 6, but also confirmed the possibility of moving it to Proctor dining hall. The Senate then unanimously approved to move ten-o'clock Ross to ten-o'clock Proctor, which serve fruits and other desserts instead of cereal and ice cream. This new program will begin next week.

The Senate then began to discuss Charles Murray's lecture last Thursday, allowing outside Middlebury community members to contribute their opinions and concerns. Senator Wright began the discussion with a defense of his decision not to support an emergency Senate session prior to Murray's arrival, an action that was supported by Co-Chair of Community Council Travis Sanderson '19 and Community Council member Charles Rainey '19. Senator Wright believed that this emergency session as well as the legislation drafted by Rainey would take attention away from the protestors' goals. Rainey responded by articulating his disappointment with the SGA's inaction prior to Murray's talk.

The entire executive board of the American Enterprise Institute (AEI) club was also present, expressing their disapproval over the actions taken against their guest speaker, Charles Murray, and defending their right to invite individuals that challenge the student body. The club also asserted its status as a nonpartisan think-tank that promotes rigorous political discussion and remains open to all Middlebury students.

Junior Senator Hannah Pustejovsky '18 then proposed a Community Standards in Public Events Bill that would establish an appeals process through which students may express their disapproval of speakers or events on campus that violate community standards. Senator Pustejovsky expressed her hope that this bill would provide institutional support for students who feel ostracized by any upcoming events, while members of the AEI board remained wary of the potential censorship that could result from such an appeals process. The Senate ultimately tabled the bill, establishing an ad hoc committee comprised of a select group of senators to further review the legislation.

Read more coverage on page 1.

Posse Plus Retreat Focuses on Identity and Community

By Catherine Pollack
Contributing Writer

Middlebury Posse scholars attended a retreat this past weekend, March 3-5. The students were accompanied by College faculty, staff and other students. This annual retreat is centered around a theme chosen by the Posse Foundation. This year, the theme was "Us Vs. Them: Division, Community and Identity in American Society." The retreat and theme aim to engage Posse scholars and others in discussions about pertinent issues on the campus-wide and national level.

Over 160 students and 25 staff and faculty attended the retreat.

Geovany Martinez '19 attended the PossePlus Retreat for the second time since arriving at Middlebury. Compared to last year's retreat, Martinez noted that students had more opportunities to contribute their ideas and connect with one another.

"The dynamics of the space made me want to be there," he said. "The retreat provides the space for conversations that don't normally occur on campus. When students are on campus, they have to juggle course work and extra-curricular activities. However, once we go away from Middlebury for a weekend with other students, faculty and staff members, we have the time and energy to have these tough conversations. This time encourages us to come back and begin having these conversations with other students that were unable to attend the retreat." Martinez is also the Posse Program intern at the Anderson Freeman Center (AFC).

"I believe the more students we have talking about divisions within our Middlebury community, the more likely it is for students ... to move forward to a more inclusive campus."

GEOVANY MARTINEZ '19

Miguel Fernandez, chief diversity officer and the College's liaison to the Posse Foundation, shared similar thoughts about the weekend retreat. "We hope that by going off campus we can create a space where students feel comfortable to engage in deep dialogue on challenging topics that are relevant to them personally, to our College community and pertinent to national discussion," he said. "Posse scholars are leaders and we hope that they and their guests will return to campus and lead around these topics."

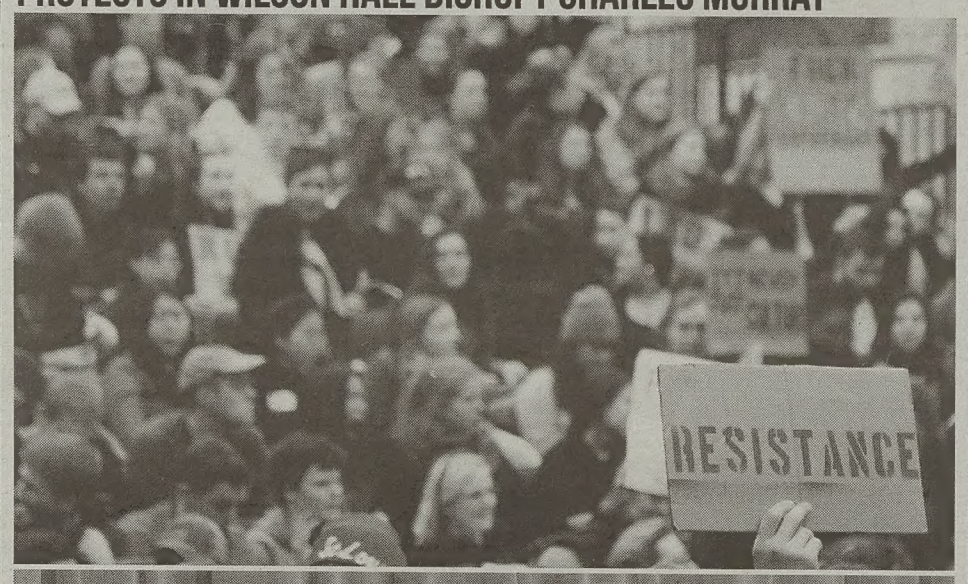
Martinez noted that he hoped these conversations will create a more unified campus. "I believe the more students we have talking about divisions within our Middlebury Community, the more likely it is for students to act on these divisions and move forward to a more inclusive campus," he said.

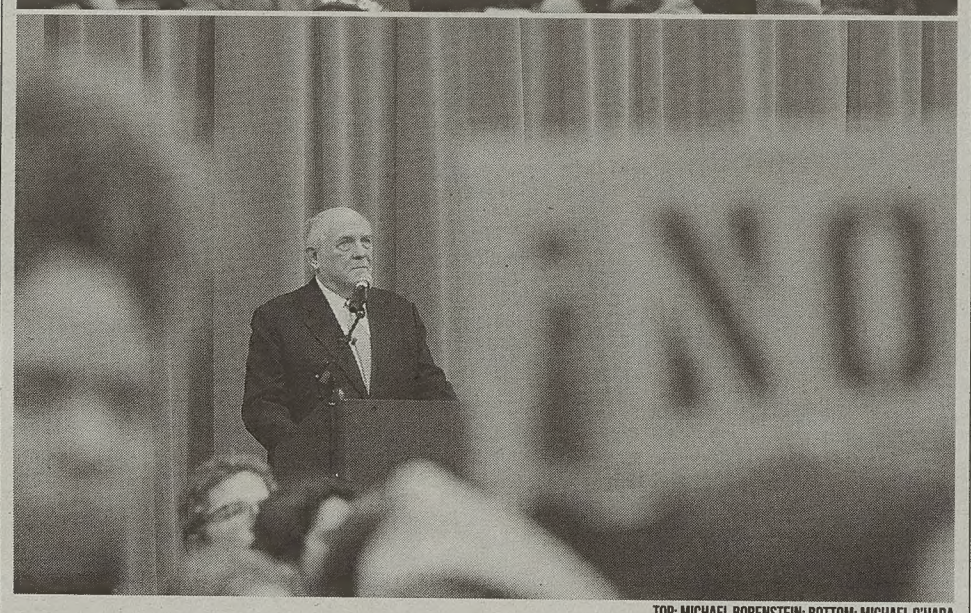
The Posse Foundation recruits students who are commonly neglected and underrepresented in the College Admissions Process. The Foundation provides these students with four-year, full-tuition leadership scholarships at one of its 57 partner colleges or universities. At these institutions, the scholars are a part of a cohort of nine other Posse scholars. These dynamic, diverse teams are designed to create community and support within the Posses and across Posses at different colleges and universities.

The College partnered with the Posse Foundation in 1998 and currently accepts Posses from the Posse chapters in New York, Chicago and Los Angeles. The College coordinated with the Posse Foundation to plan the weekend-long retreat.

From January to March, Posse scholars gather away from their colleges or universities to engage in conversations surrounding this theme. According to the Posse Foundation, this theme aimed to address some of the questions surrounding the polarizing political atmosphere in our nation and our cultural readiness to build walls against ideas that differ from our own instead of engaging with this difference. The goal of the theme is to begin discussions that grapple with the emergence of this polarization but also to look at ways to use dialogue to break down these barriers.

PROTESTS IN WILSON HALL DISRUPT CHARLES MURRAY





TOP: MICHAEL BORENSTEIN; BOTTOM: MICHAEL O'HARA

EATREAL FORUM EXPLAINS MEAT REDUCTION PLAN

By Elaine Velie
News Editor

EatReal held an open forum last Monday to explain their plan to reduce the quantity of meat served in the dining hall.

The student-run club presented a slideshow both explaining why they are proposing this plan and how the plan would be implemented. EatReal cited environmental and human rights concerns, animal welfare and student health as the motivating factors behind the plan's proposal.

"EatReal and dining services are working together to reduce the amount of meat, particularly industrial meat, in the dining halls by 10 to 30 percent and replace it with higher quality, more sustainable meat, other protein sources and other more sustainable foods," said EatReal member Ashley Babcock '17. The plan suggests a ten percent decrease in the quantity of meat served in the dining halls over three years, totalling a 30 percent decrease.

The plan is still open to student input. "After the first year's 10 percent reduction, there would be opportunity for students to voice their concerns and talk about if it worked well and if they want to continue reducing the quantity of meat further, so it wouldn't be set in stone," Babcock said.

"Reallocating money away from industrial meat towards these more sustainable options... is an opportunity to decrease Middlebury's carbon footprint."

ASH BABCOCK '17
CO-PRESIDENT OF EATREAL

Meat reduction would work in a few ways. "We could easily cut meat into smaller pieces, which would be a really good way to reduce waste. Another option is to reduce the amount of meat in soups and salads, and then another option is incorporating meat into other dishes. This also does not mean that plain meat options would be eliminated," Babcock said. It was also noted that there would still be meat available at every lunch and dinner.

"Reallocating money away from industrial meat towards these more sustainable options, including higher quality, better tasting meat, is an opportunity to decrease Middlebury's carbon footprint without raising dining's budget," Babcock said. EatReal also clarified that their meat reduction proposal would not increase the budget of dining services.

"Environmental concerns are definitely a huge part of the reason we are interested in this change, agriculture accounts for a huge portion of greenhouse gas emissions," said Sarah Koenigsberg '17. "The best estimates are between 15 and 18 percent for global contributions to carbon emissions by animal agricultural, and that is about as much, if not more, than the entire transportation sector."

EatReal also explained the human rights and animal welfare issues pertaining to industrial meat, particularly involving the meat packing industry and the prevalence of factory farms. The senior members of EatReal then explained the health and nutritional motivation behind reducing meat in the dining halls. They displayed a series of calculations based on the amount of meat the dining hall serves. According to EatReal's calculations, students receive 20 more grams of protein a day, from meat alone, than the FDA recommends. Other noted health concerns included the use of antibiotics in meat and, ultimately, elevated mortality rates among heavy meat eaters.

Vt. Senate Unanimously Passes Immigration Bill

Jules Morales
Staff Writer

On Thursday, Feb. 23, a group of Burlington High School (BHS) students eagerly looked on as members of the Vermont Senate joined together in a unanimous 30-0 vote to pass an immigration bill aimed at limiting Vermont's role in enforcing federal immigration laws.

The Rutland Herald reported that the bill "aims to keep state, county and local law enforcement agencies from helping federal authorities enforce immigration laws."

The bill, co-authored by Gov. Phil Scott (R), State Attorney General T.J. Donovan (D) and other lawmakers, grants Gov. Scott the sole authority in approving any potential state and local police efforts to enforce federal immigration laws. Vermont Public Radio (VPR) reported that the bill will "also prohibit police agencies from collecting personal information that might be used for a federal registry based on religion or immigration status."

The bill's passing was welcomed by the 11 BHS students in attendance. "My family...we're from a Muslim background, and we're also refugees..." Noorto Mohamed, a Somalian immigrant, told VPR. "But even though we're citizens, we don't really feel a part of America that much ... this has definitely helped, seeing all the Americans who are very accepting."

Senate President Tim Ashe also spoke with VPR, elaborating on the meaning of the unanimous vote. He said, "[The vote] suggests that at a time where there's so much polarization, people of good faith, good conscience, protective of our Constitution, inclusive of our values, can put aside party politics, join together and unite to send a conceptual message."

However, the bill is expected to face opposition as it heads to the Vermont House this month. On March 2, the House Judiciary Committee reviewed the measure, but took no action. House Minority Leader Don Turner (R) openly criticized the bill, telling the *Burlington Free Press*, "It sends the message that they're not going to get any help from Vermont law enforcement when they need it."

"[The vote] suggests that at a time where there's so much polarization, people of good faith, good conscience, protective of our Constitution, inclusive of our values, can put aside party politics, join together and unite to send a conceptual message."
TIM ASHE

This matter is of particular concern in small towns close to the Canadian border, such as Swanton, Vermont. With the U.S. Border Patrol headquarters far closer to the Swanton Police Department than the nearest Vermont State Police barracks, Swanton police officers often turn to U.S. border agents for assistance. Chief Leonard Stell of the Swanton Police Department said in a recent interview with the *Burlington Free Press* that "[The border agents are] our closest backup when we need them for emergencies ... Do we go knocking on doors and say, 'Hey, are you illegally in the United States?' No. It's not my duty to ask them if they're a US citizen."

SEVEN DAYS VERMONT
BHS student members of the International Club observed the Senate proceedings.

Lawmakers fear that relationships such as this one will be threatened by the immigration bill.

Skepticism surrounding the bill is not limited to the state capitol and police agencies. Both the Vermont ACLU and Migrant Justice see the bill as a step in the right direction, but hope that more steps will be taken in the near future to strengthen the bill and further protect immigrant communities. VT Digger reports that a top priority for both organizations is "consistency across the state in the implementation of [a] fair and impartial policing policy."

Jay Diaz, staff attorney for the Vermont branch of the ACLU, said in a recent interview, "While the words are meaningful, the law has the opportunity to be powerful. We're not going to stand up to the bully in Washington if we don't include a reference to the fair and impartial policy here."

In an interview with *The Campus*, Migrant Justice spokesman Will Lambek stated, "The bill focuses on preventing potential future harm but does nothing to stop the actual harm that occurs as Vermont police continue to collude with federal authorities to deport immigrants living and working in the state. Without stronger legislation to mandate that police departments across the state implement the full Fair and Impartial Policing policy, Vermont will continue to be a party to Trump's agenda of mass deportation."

He added that several states have "already gone farther than Vermont" in the measures taken within their respective immigration bills.

Further House action on the bill is expected sometime this month.

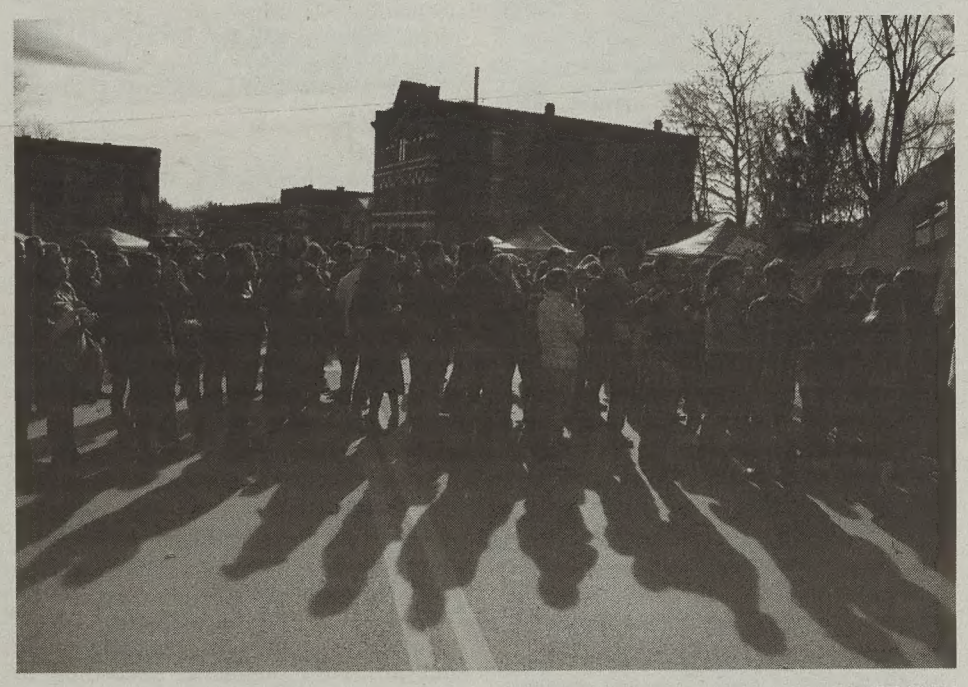
What to Look for at this Weekend's Chili Festival

By Rebecca Walker
Local Editor

On Saturday, March 11, Main St., Middlebury will host its 9th annual Vermont Chili Festival. Every year, thousands of Vermonters come from across the state to join the chili festivities in downtown Middlebury, and this year should be no different. The Chili Festival will be take place from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday afternoon, and award-winning chili plus free entertainment will energize the afternoon

As usual, judges will be voting on the best chili in the categories of veggie, beef, chicken, game, kitchen sink and pork. This year, the Festival is also adding a new category for ranking called "Anything But Chili." The recipients of each of these distinctions will receive cash prizes and will also be eligible to receive the title of Best Overall Winner, for which there is a $1,000 cash prize. In addition, guests at the Chili Festival will have the opportunity to vote for their favorite chili and for the best booth.

The competition will likely be tough this year since last year's overall victors, Sabai Sabai, will be returning to the competition. Sabai Sabai participated in the Festival for the first time last March, and went home with the Best Overall title for their Thai flavored chili which they served with tortilla chips and peanuts.


HARRY CRAMER

MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

"We will certainly be serving chili again this year," shared a waitress from Sabai Sabai. "We are just excited to have fun."

Middlebury Foods, a non-profit organization dedicated to creating quality food at affordable prices, will also be returning to the Chili Festival this Saturday with a vegetarian chili that is made with vegetables from local producers.

"Last year, Middlebury Foods' Chili Fest debut resulted in a second place finish in the vegetarian category," explained club member Charlie Mitchell '18. "This year we are going for gold, but we are most excited to meet more students and neighbors, hand out stickers and coupons and sample some chili from the competition!"

Other award-winning participants from last year's Festival include Park Squeeze, The Lobby, Indulge Salon, Middlebury College Brisket and La Boca Wood Fired Pizza.

The festivities will continue even after all the chili is eaten with after parties at 51 Main and Two Brothers Tavern. Attendees can expect live music from Mellow Yellow at 51 Main and from Snake Mountain Bluegrass and The Horse Traders at Two Brothers.

As in past years, the funds raised at the Vermont Chili Festival this weekend will support the work of the Better Middlebury Partnership in the surrounding community.

OPINIONS

Disclaimer: Reader op-eds do not reflect the opinion of *The Middlebury Campus* editorial board.

Developing *The Campus* Dialogue

FROM THE EDITORS

Each week, the Editorial Board of *The Middlebury Campus* publishes an editorial, a statement meant to reflect the "official position" of our student publication. As a board of over thirty students, we typically spend two days debating and discussing the nuances of a variety of topics. Our conversations are constructive and often challenge us to find common ground on divisive and highly contentious issues. While our board is representative of only a small sect of students here at Middlebury, we see immense value in the time we have to engage with one another.

This week, the Editorial Board decided to stand down and instead use this space to highlight the range of voices and opinions emerging following Dr. Charles Murray's lecture and the student protests that ensued on March 2. We have received a flood of submissions, and we encouraged members within our own board to write their own pieces and delve deeper into nuance.

In the pages of the Opinions Section, and in our coverage of the event, we strive to shed light and offer a range of perspectives on what occurred before, during and after Dr. Murray's visit. We pledge to uphold the highest level of journalistic integrity and to practice responsible journalism. We also honor our role as a student newspaper representing the voices of all students.

This week, we chose only to print pieces received from members of the Middlebury and academic community. Submissions were selected to print based on the diversity they brought to the greater conversation surrounding last week's events. All other pieces can be accessed online via our website, middleburycampus.com.

Sincerely,

Ellie Reinhardt '17
Editor-in-Chief

Christian Jambora '17.5
Managing Editor

The Editorial Board of
The Middlebury Campus

The Middlebury Campus

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The content written within the Opinions pages may cause emotional distress. Please exercise discretion.

The Opinions pages of *The Middlebury Campus* provide a forum for constructive and respectful dialogue on substantive issues. With this in mind, *The Campus* reserves the right to deny publication of all or part of a submission for any reason. This includes, but is not limited to: the making of assertions based on hearsay; the relation of private conversations; the libelous mention of unverifiable events; the use of vulgar language or personal attacks. Any segment of a submitted article that contains any of the aforementioned will be removed before publication. Contributors will be allowed to reference prior articles published in the Opinions section or announcements for the public record. If a reference is made to prior articles, the submission will be considered a letter to the editor. The opinions expressed by contributors to the Opinions section, as well as reviews, columns, editorial comics and other commentary, are views of the individual contributors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the newspaper. Submit works directly to the Opinions Editors, Drawer 30, campus@middlebury.edu or via the paper's web site at www.middleburycampus.com. To be considered for publications, submissions must be received by 5 p.m. Sunday. *The Campus* reserves the right to edit all submissions.

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Coming Together

NOTES FROM THE DESK

***Opinions editor Thomas Leaycraft '20** writes about compassion in discourse.*

I went to sleep last Thursday with a sour taste in my mouth, even after an enjoyable dinner with friends and a sitcom marathon. I attended Dr. Murray's talk on his latest book "Coming Apart," eager to better understand some of the frustrations of the Trump coalition. But more importantly, I was excited for the question and answer session to voice my arguments against intellectualized racism, forged through hours of research and discussions with friends and colleagues at The Campus.

I do not resent my fellow students for denying me, and much of the Middlebury community, a platform to voice our reasoned and well-articulated criticisms of ideas and their affront to America's sacred principle of equality. However, the hatred and anger in the eyes of many members of my beloved community truly rattled me, as did the chorus of boos and the harassment of college officials and AEI's two speakers during introductory remarks. I saw protesters make threats against students who kindly asked them to be quiet. And of course, all this simmering anger exploded later that night when a mob assaulted Dr. Murray and Professor Stanger.

Of course, I admire the passion of our student body – this passion is part of why I love Middlebury. And indeed, while Dr. Murray's work has been somewhat misrepresented in recent weeks, I share the anger over his use of flawed research, which belittles women and many peoples of color. Dr. Murray's flawed science and departure from the ideas that "all men are created equal," which informs his appalling policy proposals are truly reprehensible.

However, violence and hatred undermines the cause of social justice. Civil rights, apartheid and the Indian independence movement – all experience shows that the dream of progress comes when we dream our love and compassion into the world. Social justice is a struggle but not a battle. 'Callout-culture' and a bigot witch hunt will achieve nothing. The political science department is not racist, nor are President of Middlebury Laurie L. Patton, or AEI. Scholars like Murray can challenge the humanity of minorities, but the compassion of movements like the Civil Rights movement counteracts the divisiveness and reminds us of our shared humanity. Peaceful protests and civil disobedience can achieve great things, but changing people's hearts is only possible through the rich potency of love.

Why We Protest

OP-ED

***Anna Jacobsen '16.5, Joshua Claxton '18 and Austin Kahn '17.5** consider the implications of last week's protest.*

As soon as word got out that Middlebury College would host a lecture by Charles Murray (CM), students gathered and began organizing to ensure that he would not have a platform to share his ideas on our campus. Why did a large and diverse group of students put their lives on hold to plan and participate in organized dissent (knowingly breaking college policies and putting their education in jeopardy)?

The Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC), one of the most reputable civil rights organizations in the U.S., takes a firm stance in defining Murray's political position as one of white nationalism that promotes eugenics. According to SPLC, Charles Murray, "has become one of the most influential social scientists in America, using racist pseudoscience and misleading statistics to argue that social inequality is caused by the genetic inferiority of the black and Latino communities, women and the poor." The SPLC goes on to say that "Murray, a statistically minded sociologist by training, has spent decades working to rehabilitate long-discredited theories of IQ and heredity, turning them into a foundation on which to build a conservative theory of society that rejects equality and egalitarianism." Murray's ideas and research were fundamental in driving a political agenda that we believe to be more mainstream on this campus than many admit. Opposed to addressing the lasting damages done by centuries of racist laws enacted by a culture that privileges whiteness, many people on this campus believe that people of color in the U.S. simply do not work hard enough.

On Thursday, demonstrators held signs that read "Resist White Supremacy," "No Eugenics," and "Expect Resistance Here" as they collectively read a statement that touched upon the deep history of eugenics programs in the state of Vermont throughout the 1930s, when Native Abenaki people were targeted for state-sanctioned forced sterilizations. In articles and open letters circulated before the event was scheduled to take place, students and alumni declared that under no circumstances should the College provide a platform for CM's white supremacist ideologies.

Yes, freedom of speech is important and should be upheld in an academic setting; however, there are clearly fallacies within the administration's interpretation of this constitutional provision. Not all opinions are worth amplifying or legitimizing. There are some theories that fabricate statistics and are rooted in hate.

And let us notice the context in which we choose to invoke free speech. There would be no cries in defense of the first amendment if student groups had brought a holocaust denier; no one would be yelling free speech if students were opposed to a climate change denier coming to campus. Neither the administration nor any department would have any issues denouncing these potential lecturers for their faulty science or hateful views. Yet as we saw on Thursday, our professors made an exception to offer a platform to racialized genetic inferiority, in the name of "rhetorical resilience" over academic honesty.

The Political Science Department endorsed Charles Murray as a fellow leader in academic thought. Why do we only care about free speech when it calls into question the genetic inferiority of our fellows students. What is the point of academia, if our political science professors can't discern between conservatives and hate speech extremists?

We are deeply sorry that Professor Stanger was injured and hope that she gets well soon. Regrettable acts of violence aside, this protest was absolutely essential. If the rise of Donald Trump has taught us anything, it's that the world beyond Middlebury College is n ot a classroom. If racist sh*t comes up, "rational" debate cannot dismantle it or effectively combat its growing power. The idea that bigotry will collapse under academia's enlightened rationality is false. We must name it and deprive it of power. Robbing Charles Murray of one platform for his racialized pseudoscience is a small but important part of that resistance.

PS: Here are the two URLs that are hyperlinked in the piece

Eugenics in VT: http://www.uvm.edu/~lkaelber/eugenics/VT/VT.html

Southern Poverty Law Center: https://www.splcenter.org/fighting-hate/extremist-files/individual/charles-murray

Editor's Note: Last week, "An Open Letter From the Political Science Department" was accidentally ommitted from print publication of *The Campus*. Please find the piece at middleburycampus.com

Free Speech vs. Elevated Speech

READER OP-ED

Elizabeth Lee '17 writes about nuances in defining free speech.

"Let him speak," I hear some of my peers say, looking upon the Charles Murray protest with distaste. "He has a right to free speech." As a firm believer in debate and civil discourse, I wonder if such a critique may be misguided.

For too long a flawed notion of 'free speech' has given way for individuals in marginalizing people of color and gender minorities. While I defend his right to speak his mind, I find that providing Murray with an elevated platform at a college to project his largely disproven ideas extends beyond the realm of 'free speech' and does more harm than good.

As Americans, we find ourselves lucky enough to be able to talk about our political beliefs without legal consequence. The government cannot throw us in jail or punish us for the words we write or the things we say. (With the exception of lying under oath, violating security procedures in contracts, and hate speech.) This is our constitutional right to free speech. In contrast, the right to free speech does not mean that individuals or institutions have a positive burden to offer all ideas a stage, a microphone and a large space for an audience to listen. It does not mean that academic institutions or students must guarantee all individuals 45 minutes of unchallenged and broadcasted speech, no matter how harmful or false the arguments are. Clearly, student protesters were not violating Mr. Murray's First Amendment rights when they spoke out against him. They were changing the terms of the discussion.

This is not to say that students ought not engage with Mr. Murray's ideas at all. At the point where colleges and universities have discretion over the way ideas are presented, I believe that they ought to maximize the academic experience of such ideas. They must take into account the implications of the format of the speech, official co-sponsorships and how students can meaningfully engage with the topic at hand. Students should be able to compare and contrast similar ideas in history and analyze the impact such writings had on society as a whole. To that effect, I do not think Middlebury made sufficient avenues for students to discuss, tackle and fully understand the implications of Mr. Murray's ideas.

"This is our constitutional right to free speech. In contrast, the right to free speech does not mean that individuals or institutions have a positive burden to offer al ideas a stage."

First, co-sponsorship by the Political Science Department and an opening speech by the President of Middlebury Laurie L. Patton, gave the speaker an aura of legitimacy. Instead of elucidating the fact that Mr. Murray has no peer-reviewed work (and his race-based analysis is largely false), the introductory remarks emphasized how influential his books have been and that he was a fellow at a think-tank. President Patton did very openly state that she disagreed with his views, but avoided saying that his work does not meet academic standards. While students have the right to bring speakers of all kinds to campus, the university itself must be responsible and academically honest when giving such events a show of approval through co-sponsorship. Students have the obligation to keep academic institutions accountable to a truthful and well-rounded education.

Second, and more importantly, the way in which Murray's talk was formatted did not allow for equal discussion. Were students, especially students of color, expected to just sit and listen to an individual speak for 45 minutes about how they were inferior to Whites? Do Asians have to accept Murray's false characterization that we have "higher IQ's" than other races, and as a result become the metaphorical 'punching bag' for issues surrounding race and class? Where was the avenue to speak out against such ideas? How could students engage in debate on an equal playing field when Mr. Murray had a stage and a microphone, and we were just nameless and faceless members of the audience? Without a platform for legitimate debate, it seems that students had few non-disruptive tools to get their voices heard.

Free speech is not the same as elevated speech. Places of higher education must take that distinction into account when deciding which ideas deserve elevated platforms and which ones are better expressed through other means, whether it is through equal discussion or debate. The aftermath of Murray's talk has shed light on the deep divisions within Middlebury's campus. While reconciliation will be a painful process, I hope that we can heal and grow together, creating a mutual understanding that does not marginalize or undermine any community members' fundamental voice or humanity.

Moving Beyond Rhetorical Resilience

READER OP-ED

Jiya Pandya '17 writes on the many facets of last week's protest.

There are a lot of words, links and thoughts being put out into my Facebook newsfeed with regards to last evening's Charles Murray event by my Middlebury communities right now. Here is my very long spiel on every step of what has unfolded to be a messy, difficult, complicated process for us all.

Step One: Bringing Charles Murray to this campus. I personally believe that there are other more rigorous, more influential, less condescending and less racist conservative scholars and academics that could have been brought to campus from whom and in conversation with whom I would be happy to learn. If this is intellectual battle, and I am not sure it is, there were more intellectuals to choose from (even from the list of AEI fellows). I am open to a debate about class differences in America, about the bubble we inhabit, about the politics of poverty. When that comes coupled with arguments about genetics, race and culture, I think we lose the entire point of an equal, intellectual debate.

Step Two: 'Institutional' Endorsement of Murray. First, I hearken back to my comments about intellectual rigor above. What are the precedents we are setting for a standard of scholarship within this community? Second, I believe that President of Middlebury Laurie L. Patton, Professor of Political Science and Department Chair Bertram Johnson and the heads of the AEI campus chapter are incredibly intelligent, thoughtful people — however, given Mr. Murray's work, more thought should have gone into the ways this would be interpreted within this community. Here are a few examples of the problematic ways we have been according such time, space and resources to Mr. Murray: having the President introducing him, offering departmental endorsement, setting it up in a space the size of Dana or Wilson, having it be a speech instead of on a panel, having significant police/security presence, widely announcing it merely a week before he was scheduled to speak. I have had to read Murray for class. I will engage with his ideas within the classroom. Bringing him to speak on a stage on campus is different, because it is not a space where we can take pause and respond to his work critically. He has been answering questions about his books for years. Two hours of listening to him, even a week of preparing questions, do not measure up to that — I repeat, that is not an equal exchange. Speakers are teaching moments within an educational setting. I hope you understand how the structure of this event can be seen as an invalidation of some folks' beliefs (and humanity) and to some others, a provocation. To emphasize his presence in a top-bottom way is, in some ways, to provoke a reaction. I am all for academic distance, theorizing and conversation, but if that seems to come at the emotional cost of some of my peers, I wish that those who made space for Mr. Murray had reflected more carefully on what debate means, and had considered alternative ways of placing him into our campus conversation.

Step Three: Organizing Dissent. Student and faculty activists had about one week to organize. We are not professional organizers. There was no way this would not have been messy. To those who asked if we, the organizers, had even read "The Bell Curve", you also go to Middlebury. Is it a fair expectation to have everyone read all his prolific writing in a week whilst also being a student here? I personally read about 150 pages of Murray last weekend, and still wanted to listen to him. I agree with many who say that Mr. Murray's voice and views are a reality in our world. But when I say I wanted to listen, this does not mean I did not want to dissent. The two are not antithetical to one another. If I had complete control of the situation (which I am glad I didn't because that misses the point of what it means to learn to organize and collaborate), I would have wanted to protest him outside, carry our voices and our signs and our dissent into the space and be allowed to force him into dialogue. If he said something we disagreed with, I would have wanted us to be able to boo at him, shout back, and then, during the Q&A, challenge him and disrupt the idea that this was an equal exchange. I, personally, did not want to shut him down, because I see that as ineffective. To me, that is giving him what he wants from us. That being said, I understand why those who deemed that necessary felt so, and I think we should all pause and reflect upon why some of our peers made that choice.

Step Four: The Fall Out. There are lines, of course. I in no way condone the physical violence against Professor Stanger and Mr. Murray, nor any violence against student protesters. These acts are undeniably reprehensible, and we have to rethink the role played by actors external to this campus, be they security personnel or agitators, in impacting our community. We also have to rethink our reactivity, and the cruelty with which we at times choose to respond. To those who yelled obnoxious, personal, mean things to our classmates who were on that stage, shame on you. Simultaneously, to those who glared at protesters, hurled insults at them and have decided that there is no more to them than hatred and anger, shame on you too. To paint this situation as a binary of anti and pro-free speech, or of anti and pro-white supremacy, as some of my peers have been doing, is to take away from the incredible, beautiful nuance within and beyond the activist community. Mostly, it frightens me when my peers say any form of dissent should be punished. In my view, if you were scared of those who verbally shut down this event, but do not see Murray's vitriol as equally scary, then you are choosing not to see the harm he perpetuates and misunderstanding why folks like me, who wanted to listen to him, were protesting to begin with. This is not a matter of "us" versus "them." To create such a dichotomy is to ignore not only the fundamental racism of Murray's arguments, but also to not see the humanity in each other.

"I am open to a debate about class differences in America, about the bubble we inhabit, about the politics of poverty. When that comes coupled with arguments about race, genetics and culture, I think we lose the entire point of an equal intellectual debate."

Step Five: Moving Forward. If it is possible, I think we should move away from talking about Charles Murray. He has had his share of attention, and by the looks of it, he has enjoyed it. It seems to me that most of us disapprove of his ideas. We have consensus there. If that is the case, let's talk about where we disagree with each other. I think we should talk about what civil discourse, resistance and resilience mean for this campus, especially given broader structural inequalities and power differentials here at Middlebury, in the U.S. and in the world. I think we should move, as a professor of mine pointed out, from the rhetoric of resilience, which favors some, to material resilience, which forces us all to be brave. I want us to move from the idea of a debate to the work of fostering connection, empathy and support for one another. Let us treat the aftermath as a learning moment in the same way that some of us treated his coming here. We as a community have a lot of growing to do. I personally believe that I stand to learn more from you, my peers, my faculty and my campus, than I do from Mr. Murray.

Thank you for reading this if you got this far. Let us learn, converse and heal together.

From Abroad: A Letter to President Patton

OP-ED

***Students studying abroad** respond to President Patton's handling of last week's protest.*

Although we are physically removed from Middlebury, we assure you that we are closely following campus events and are writing to register our disappointment with the administration's handling and characterization of the events of March 2. We watched through social media as the protests were planned and unfolded: they were peaceful, intentional and well-organized given the time constraints. On the night of Murray's talk we tuned in to students' livestreams and felt proud and inspired as we watched our friends exercise their right to speech through organized and peaceful protest. Unfortunately, communications from the administration have de-legitimized this expression of student will, clinging to flimsy free speech arguments while ignoring the many legitimate concerns leveled through letters and protest. That being said, we would like to address the following to President Patton:

We are extremely troubled by your actions regarding Mr. Murray's speech on Thursday. In your introductory remarks, you said that "Middlebury is committed to unlocking the potential and brilliance of every student no matter their race, their class, their sexual orientation, their religious orientation, their disabled status or any other demographic marker." While we appreciate the sentiment, this claim is hard to believe. By letting this event proceed and attaching your name to it, we feel that you valorized and gave epistemological authority to a speaker who has disputed the "potential and brilliance" that exists in our student body on the basis of the factors you listed. Your "profound disagreement" with Murray's ideas isn't enough because it signals that his unfounded assertions about the inferiority and pathology of underprivileged communities are up for debate at Middlebury.

We are sure that you would not introduced a member of the KKK or a Holocaust denier and are certain you understand that civil discourse has boundaries. Thus, we question why you do not recognize attacks on POC humanity as violating norms. A debate in which we have to pretend that one group is inferior to another is not a legitimate or useful intellectual exercise; it is a cruel abuse of power.

Middlebury claims to value "open discourse", but failed to take into account power dynamics and the fact that free speech is not equal speech. In prioritizing Murray's right to free speech over ours, we feel that you reaffirmed the idea that Middlebury as an institution was not made for certain groups.

Your letter to the community only deepened our disillusionment. Despite championing "rhetorical resilience" and engagement with all sides, we feel that you have not practiced this yourself; you have demonized student protesters while refusing to consider the perspectives that their resistance and protest forced you to hear. You made no obvious attempt at nuance or compassion, failing to acknowledge the ways in which the invitation and sheltering of a white supremacist in the place that we live and study caused emotional and physical damage. By allowing a hostile agent into our home, berating us for not treating him civilly and then apologizing on our behalf, you ignored the historic danger of his assertions.

You accuse us of failing to live up to Middlebury's core values, but had we known that passively accepting bigoted pseudoscience was a core value, rest assured that we would have chosen to attend different schools. An institution that does such an abysmal job at retaining students of color must be more self-aware, else it is doomed to fail and should.

We feel that your letter legitimized a national media narrative which has characterized students, who never intended for violence to occur, as simultaneously spoiled elites and rioting thugs (the latter being racially charged.) This un-nuanced conversation has sought to invalidate the protests by citing the cost of tuition at Middlebury while ignoring the fact that Murray's invitation was an attack on socioeconomically disadvantaged, primarily minority students. We are left to wonder if your disappointment and condemnation are meant to assure the world that Middlebury is not a "liberal bubble." Was your letter merely an attempt to placate donors and trustees?

The excitement we felt two years ago surrounding the appointment of a female, well-qualified and seemingly open-minded president has abated and been replaced by feelings of disillusionment and resignation. As well-intentioned as it may be, we feel that your passion for "rhetorical resilience" seems to signal to certain groups that they should "just get over it" when their peers and professors deny their very humanity and right to exist on this campus. We feel that your commitment to students who have always felt unwelcome at Middlebury rings false and this latest episode proves that your administration does not value us the way you claim. Radical inclusivity is a principle to which this administration merely pays lip service. We demand better. We are ready to put in the work to realize this goal but ask that the administration, in kind, re-evaluates its recent actions and begins to demonstrate a tangible commitment to this college's marginalized communities.

Signed,
Toni Cross '18 Rabat, Morocco
Eleanor Eagan '18 Rabat, Morocco
Philip Brand '18.5 Amsterdam, Netherlands
Sofi Hecht '18 Rabat, Morocco
Sabina Latifovic '18 Paris, France
Rose Adams '18.5 Rabat, Morocco
Sierra Jackson '18 Nottingham, England
Meg Sayre '18 Buenos Aires, Argentina
Maddy Dickinson '18 Kunming, China
Sanchea Chung '18 Atlanta, USA
Mari Tanioka '18, Stockholm, Sweden
Asia M-Funches '18 Atlanta, USA
Jennifer Damian '18 Monterey, USA
Olivia Tubio '18 Copenhagen, Denmark
Mariana Oshana '18 Córdoba, Spain
Anna Lueck '18.5 Amman, Jordan
Claudia Huerta '18 Buenos Aires, Argentina
Rachel Schneider '18 Berlin, Germany
Fiona Mohamed '18 Glasgow, Scotland
Anna Paritsky '17.5 Paris, France
Caley Henderson '18 Kunming, China
Sylvia Lynch '18 Yaoundé, Cameroun
Ashley Simons '18 Atlanta, USA
Elliott Miller '18, Beijing, China
Bryce Williamson '18, Poitiers, France
Nina Sweeney '18 Bordeaux, France
Julia Trencher '18, Córdoba, Spain
Deniz Bingul '18, Copenhagen, Denmark
Emma Walker '18 Rabat, Morocco
Adiza Mohammed '18 Rabat, Morocco
Katie Mayopoulos '18 Madrid, Spain
Tyler Farrell '18 Hanover, USA
Robert Engel '18 Rabat, Morocco
Daniel Buchman '18.5 Amman, Jordan
Abdel Rodriguez '18 Rabat, Morocco
Chelsea "Chi Chi" Chang '18 Xalapa, México
Addie Mahdavi '18 New York City, USA
Taylor Cook '18 New York City, USA

Nuance, Free Speech and Responsibility

READER OP-ED

***Erik Bleich, professor of political science,** writes about free speech and the consequences of protest.*

Like many who have written already, I want to provide my perspective on the events during Charles Murray's recent visit. I write as a professor of political science, a scholar of free speech and hate speech, a teacher of courses on race, ethnicity, and diversity and a straight, white man, whose childhood included several years of poverty that included periods on food stamps. I have participated in discussions with a left-leaning group on campus since before the event, and was in sporadic contact with an AEI club member following the event. I have friends, colleagues and students on all sides.

There has been a strong and unfortunate tendency to conflate three forms of protest that took place on the day:

loud and raucous protests outside prior to the event,

louder and more raucous protests inside the venue that eventually succeeded in forcing the event off the stage, and

violent events that took place as participants left the building.

I think conflating these is a mistake. Everyone I know has supported the pre-event protests and roundly condemned the post-event violence. So I focus here exclusively on the "middle protest" — what happened in the room with Murray at the lectern. This has generated the most contentious debate on campus.

The best arguments I've heard for shutting down Murray's speech center on a complete rejection of his stance on biological racial differences, a stance that has formed the basis of truly harmful policies and attitudes. From this perspective, it did not matter that he was not going to speak about The Bell Curve; he is on record as someone who at a minimum gives intellectual support to racists, and the College should not have given him a platform to convey any of his views. Who is next, people have asked, David Duke? Louis Farrakhan? If individuals' core identities are challenged in ways that have led to hate crimes and genocide, why should we tolerate them on campus?

I sympathize with the pain caused by Murray's visit. I have listened carefully to the heart-wrenching fears that some of my students have of life in the contemporary United States. But I am not convinced by arguments for shutting down this event. It is all the less persuasive amid assertions that students were just exercising their free speech rights of "simultaneous dialogue" when they impeded Murray from delivering his lecture. This is a fundamental and deeply troubling misconception of free speech. Would the protesters approve of 50 white male students standing up to shout down Shaun King or Ta-Nehisi Coates, or drowning out a lecture that decried masculinity as a threat to our society?

The best arguments I've heard for condemning the shut-down are both philosophical and strategic. We cannot operate as a community of learners if guest speakers cannot present their ideas for us to debate as vehemently as required. As a specific tactic, the shut-down has split the very broad coalition of people on campus who are deeply sympathetic to students of marginalized backgrounds, forcing them to choose between free speech and being an ally to the activist protesters. It also drew national media attention to Middlebury in a way that reinforces the public's visions of college students as "snowflakes," all while making Murray look like a sympathetic victim and handing him a bullhorn for his ideas.

The protesters forced me to choose, and so I choose free speech. I do that recognizing that I now have to find other ways to reaffirm my commitment to diversity on campus and to supporting students with marginalized backgrounds. I am ready to do that as best I can. It is also important to note that the protesters forced everyone to choose, and several of my students of color were strongly opposed to the shut-down of Murray and firmly in favor of free speech. Two stated that they were being ostracized by friends for their positions. The fissures on campus run deep and in complicated directions.

There is a second level of complexity and nuance that I hope can be recognized in our discussions. It is one that is sorely lacking in much of the media coverage. Not everyone protesting in the room that day was the same. They did not all protest for the same motives. They did not all anticipate the results.

The student leaders certainly knew exactly what they were doing. They were alerted from several quarters that their actions would have truly detrimental effects of a wide variety of sorts, including on a personal level a risk of suspension or expulsion. Like many students in all periods of history, they did not listen. That is their prerogative, and I believe they earnestly felt that it was their moral duty to carry out this form of protest no matter what.

But I have heard from some of the students and faculty who participated by standing up that they did not know the intent was to shut down his speech. Some thought the plan was to stand, shout, then have the core protesters walk out so Murray's talk could go forward. They were looking forward to Allison Stanger's pointed questions, and wanted to hear or pose other ones. Some just found themselves caught up in the moment and surrounded by friends who all rose together and stayed standing. To remain seated or to sit down later seemed like it would be an insult to their friends and a tacit endorsement of Murray's views. We should not assume that 150 students did this with the same knowledge or motives. That may be true of 50 or so leaders and core activists. But it was not true of everyone in the room.

One final thought related to intent. I believe there have to be consequences for the in-room protesters. But because not all protesters were the same, those consequences should be varied. We have a process on campus for determining penalties for breaking College rules, and that should be followed scrupulously, because it allows for context to play a role in a final judgment that is guided by principles of "fundamental fairness." Given this system, the students (and other community members) in the room should accept responsibility for their actions. As one colleague wrote to me privately, Gandhi and King are remembered because they went to jail, not because they avoided punishment. If you participated in the event because you were morally compelled to do so, I admire your having the courage of your convictions. But you lose any moral high ground if you do not take responsibility for your decisions.

I have tried to focus on several nuances that are missing from many discussions. Not all forms of protest were the same, and we shouldn't lump their participants together in our minds. Not all protesters in the room had the same intent, and we shouldn't conflate them. But I also think a clear judgment is required on other fronts. It was unequivocally wrong to shut down Charles Murray's speech. And anyone involved in doing so should come forward and talk openly about the role they played on the day.

Why We Should Listen to the Protesters

READER OP-ED

***Juan Andrade-Vera '19** writes in about equality vs. equity.*

When I engage with fellow students, I start by asking questions. This past week I often asked, or some form of, "do you think that currently, and historically, there has existed a power imbalance between whites and POC's/poor people, leading to an overvaluation of white voices and an undervaluation of POC/poor ones?" I am pleased to report that in 100 percent of conversations I had, the answer was "yes." Great, now here is the point: equality and equity are not the same thing — not even close.

This past week I've heard, "everyone has a right to their freedom of speech," or "I don't agree with him, but I want to hear what he has to say." With that, I disagree. Allowing everyone to speak freely, especially on matters of race, creates that power imbalance my peers agreed existed, thus, not providing marginalized groups equal paths to success. In economics, the free market equilibrium we see on a supply and demand graph isn't obtainable because not everyone has the income necessary to participate in said market. Same here. Equality means giving both, whites and marginalized people, the same access to the platform of speech, but equality won't do anything to solve the ever-growing gap between the valuation of white opinions over the valuation of marginalized ones. Instead, it will continue to fully value and in this case, normalize those opinions that have aided in the creation of institutionalized racism, making it difficult for the marginalized voices to be heard. Equity, on the other hand, is providing a platform, equal or unequal, for people to begin to have access to the same opportunities. It is giving the poor more income in order to participate in a market. Fighting inequity means we need to value the freedom of speech of marginalized people more than the freedom of speech of the oppressive voices such as Charles Murray until we see significant decreases in that gap. The mindset of allowing Charles Murray to speak for the sake of civil discourse and freedom of speech is dangerous as it ignores the fact that certain groups do not have an equally valued platform. As Travis Sanderson '19 wrote, "opinions are not all created equal".

As it stands, Donald J. Trump is president; in the "most diverse congress in history" POC's represent only 102 members despite non-Hispanic whites making up 60 percent of the US population. According to the Pew Research Center, in 2013, the average net worth of a black family was seven percent that of a white family. In a study sponsored by The Student Impact Project based on data from the US census and Bureau of Labor Statistics, they concluded a black college student has the same chance at employment as a white college dropout. In a study conducted by Anderson Cooper of CNN, a white male with a criminal record is just as and sometimes more likely to get a job than an equally qualified person of color with a clean record, and the chances are twice as high when the white applicant has no criminal record. According to the New York Civil Liberties Union, in each year from 2009-2016, 80 percent of the stops in NY's stop-and-frisk were done to blacks and Latinos; 10 percent to whites. The list goes on and the inequity is there and will be there until we decide that the kind of rhetoric that has aided in the creation of these inequities is not tolerated any more. I'm not saying that Charles Murray is the cause of every single problem I highlighted; I'm saying that giving him the platform to spew out the oppressive nature of his rhetoric can be used to validate someone else's racist views, bringing us back to a pattern of oppression.

> ***"Equity is providing a platform, equal or unequal, for people to begin to have access to the same opportunities. It is giving the poor more income in order to participate in a market."***

This week, my frustration was not with Charles Murray. I have heard and dismissed people like him my entire life. My frustration, sadness and disappointment was with my peers, who were so quick to fight for his right to speak, and tell me "listen to the other side" before considering the pain, hurt and self-doubt his presence was causing me. I beg all of you who are privileged enough to not be frustrated with Murray's presence to take a piece of your own advice and listen. Listen to the other side, and to the pain and suffering and try to empathize with how Murray has made people feel, and how the protests that occurred were signs of solidarity, not signs of intellectual intolerance. Emotional distress is real; Charles Murray's findings are not.

On Thursday, I was proud of my fellow protesters. For the first time at Middlebury I didn't feel alone, and I hope we don't let the violence enacted by a few non-Middlebury members mask what I believe to have been the most beautiful demonstration of rhetorical resilience. President of Middlebury Laurie L. Patton wrote, "let's make our conversations authentic and resilient. Resilience is the ability to change and grow in response to our environment." Well, Thursday was our response. We felt the pain and saw the danger in having Charles Murray, and we grew to make our response authentic and resilient.

Toward Community Healing

READER OP-ED

***Jeremy Stratton-Smith '17** writes about the importance of empathy in the aftermath of last week's protest.*

Over the past week, there has been a slew of media coverage of the protest and surrounding events that occurred on Thursday, March 2nd in response to Charles Murray [CM] arriving on campus to give a lecture. There are many narratives circulating within campus networks as well as more broadly in the national media. I would like to add a perspective that so far has gone unaddressed by the majority of the coverage. I hope to allow people to think about protest and these specific events on campus by introducing the idea of rhetorical violence and emphasizing the importance of empathy in responding to (rhetorical) violence.

Developing empathy as a practiced skill can help us move forward toward community healing.

In her most recent email, President Patton said that colleges and universities should uphold the right to free speech, even "unpopular speech." This is upsetting given the ongoing reality of systemic oppression, consisting of racist immigration policy targeting people from predominantly Muslim countries, attacks on the Affordable Care Act that has increased access to health care, increasingly militarized police forces and government sponsored destruction of native lands for private profit.

These are facts of many people's daily lives, both on and off campus and are openly supported in the public arena. In contrast to the idea put forth by President Patton that these ideas do not have platforms, these are spread in our daily news and are widely present in our government, especially under our new president. Creating a platform at Middlebury for similar kinds of racism and oppressive ideologies impedes student's abilities to be academically successful and generally whole people within our community because it welcomes in rhetorical violence and emotional distress.

We as a community can act differently and find ways to make Middlebury a place of healing for the traumas that have been inflicted by institutional racism, but instead chose, and continue to choose, to deny these legacies of violence. This happens in many ways, one of which is the administrative recognition that student emotions are broader than anger and frustration. There is confusion, hurt, betrayal and a whole host of other emotions that are triggered by the kind of violent rhetoric that Charles Murray published. If we are going to heal, we need to find spaces where these emotions can be validated and accounted for, not just in a cordoned off protest area while dehumanizing rhetoric is spouted from a stage.

In his recent post about the events that took place last Thursday, CM acknowledges that he has been discredited as a white supremacist, racist, sexist, eugenicist and white nationalist at Middlebury and by many prominent scholars. He does nothing to address the fact that these are not labels that are used arbitrarily. They are used to designate someone who perpetuates the ongoing trauma of racism, sexism and eugenics that shape all of our lives in different ways. None of us are free of the histories of violence that have shaped racism and sexism. Some are forced to bear that trauma in daily life in the small slights and large exclusions that people from marginalized backgrounds experience. Others of us are able to bear that trauma in a different way: the privilege to tell others that their pain is not real.

When we think about community healing and a path forward, it is important that we take into account the ways that some members of our community, namely minority students, are told that their experiences are not real. To do so would look like an affirmative statement by the administration, acknowledging the pain that rhetorical violence such as Murray's can trigger, and providing avenues for healing that do not first require members of our community to be retraumatized by having their existence on campus put into question. Additionally, we need to do some work as students to think about the ways in which we have denied each other empathy, particularly for our peers who experience various forms of marginalization. Instead of denial, we can build tools of empathy by learning about our histories of violence and by practicing connecting with, listening to or simply validating the experiences of our peers when they are different from our own experiences.

For all of the reasons above, I stand in support of the protestors from Thursday night as they expressed the communal pain that bringing a speaker like Charles Murray to campus creates. It is not rhetorically resilient for students of color to be forced to experience another example of white supremacy and racism on campus. I stand with students of color on our campus who participated in the protest and also those who did not. I have seen so many students from marginalized backgrounds exhibiting rhetorical resilience in their daily lives, while at the same time seeing that privileged students so often lack the empathy to honestly and openly engage with those they perceive to be different from them.

Examining how we move forward can be a learning opportunity for those of us who do not experience oppression at Middlebury. Empathy is a skill, not an inherent quality, and I would ask that students with various kinds of privilege take some time to think about what empathy truly looks like, and what they might be able to learn about themselves and about other students on campus when they practice empathy.

To the Editors

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

***Jacob M. Appel, M.D. J.D. Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at Mt. Sinai School of Medicine** writes in about Murray.*

Dear Editors:

One does not have to agree with Charles Murray's ideas, or even to be interested in hearing him speak, to be deeply disturbed by the efforts of Middlebury College students to silence him. The advantage of living in a liberal democracy is that it affords numerous ways in which to challenge speakers with whom one disagrees: engaging those speakers in the marketplace of ideas, for example, or ignoring them entirely. In contrast, using a "heckler's veto" to keep unpopular speakers from expressing their views not only stifles a particular speaker, but threatens to chill public discourse by discouraging others with controversial ideas from sharing them. Popular viewpoints do not require the protections provided by free speech rights; objectionable ones do.

What is saddest about the spectacle surrounding Murray's aborted speech is that many of his antagonists seem oblivious to the history of freedom of speech on American colleges campus. For much of the second half of the twentieth century, from the struggle against McCarthyites and loyalty oaths in the 1950s to the Free Speech Movement of the 1960s, progressive students and faculty had to fight for the right to express themselves freely. It is hard to imagine that anyone fully aware of that legacy could wish to suppress others as they were once censored themselves.

Allowing one controversial speaker, no matter how offensive to some, is unlikely to undermine our values or damage our society. Allowing no controversial speakers threatens us all.

Sincerely,
Jacob M. Appel MD JD
Assistant Professor of Psychiatry
Mount Sinai School of Medicine

Questions For Those Who Shut Down Murray

READER OP-ED

David Stoll, professor of anthropology, *questions the methods of last week's protest.*

On behalf of President Donald J. Trump, I would like to thank the protesters who prevented other people from hearing Charles Murray's last week. The Trump administration is under siege by investigators and subpoenas. But you provided a welcome distraction. From Steve Bannon's point of view, it couldn't have turned out better. As for myself, I would really like to hear how different protest groups and options interacted up to the critical moment, around 4:45 p.m. on Thursday March 2, when a bunch of you decided not to walk out. If this group included newcomers pushing for a fight, and if this was still the Nixon administration, my next question would be, any chance they work for the FBI? Nowadays, the next question would be, any chance they work for an Alt-Right sting that persuaded you to do stupid things on camera?

However this happened, the shut-it-downers acted out the inhumanity you say you oppose. Shut-it-downers preempted other strategies, that would respect a speaker's right to be heard and make the protest look good, so that you could rhythmically stomp on free speech. The rest of us do not understand how, in the name of fighting hate-speech, you could hate-speech a speaker for two hours, then attack him and his escort as they tried to leave. But there's a possible explanation for why you could do this with a clear conscience — is it because of how you think about race?

The reason I ask is that you used race to justify your actions. Racial epithets played all too well in this liberal enclave. The Southern Poverty Law Center uses pull-quotes to accuse Charles Murray of racist pseudoscience and white nationalism, which you escalated by calling him a white supremacist. Now I'm hearing protesters defend their actions by saying it's okay to punch Nazis. So Charles Murray is equivalent to a Nazi? Rhetorical escalation often backfires; if it sends you into a rage, your opponent will look more reasonable than you do. That's certainly how Murray looked, standing patiently at the lium for half an hour, as the halo of free eech descended upon his brow.

Calling Murray a white supremacist is like calling an abortionist a baby-killer. Eighth- month abortions kill viable infants. But if you label abortion providers as baby-killers, you make a false generalization and dehumanize them. This is to be avoided if you want to avoid violence. In the case of Murray, his use of psychometrics to characterize broad populations has made him popular with Republicans who feel that government handouts encourage anti-social behavior among low-income Americans. This puts him on a slippery slope that can quickly lead to white supremacy; it is possible that Murray enjoys being on this slippery slope; but neither this nor white nationalism nor scientific racism are positions that he articulates. Murray is better defined as a bio-determinist or genetic fatalist, the limitations of which are easy to explain.

Those of you who race-baited Murray as a white supremacist put yourselves on your own slippery slope. You dehumanized him, which made it easy to justify violence against him, which is exactly what happened. You are also on a second slippery slope, which I care about just as much because I do not want to see Donald Trump win a second term in the White House. If having conservative attitudes about poverty is tantamount to racism, are you now going to label all the American voters who think this way as racists?

Cultural conservatives, whose attitudes strike liberals as backward, include tens of millions of Democratic voters in the last election, and they are not all white. You can accuse as many people as you want of being racists, but don't expect them to vote for you in the next election. Of course, maybe you've stopped caring about elections. Look how badly the last one turned out. If American elections are inextricably linked to white privilege, what do they matter? If free speech is inextricably linked to white privilege, what does that matter either?

"Cultural conservatives, whose attitudes strike liberals as backward, include tens of millions of Democratic voters in the last election, and they are not all white ."

About ten years ago, Charles Murray came here to talk about the controversy over "The Bell Curve". There was no campaign to disinvite him and faculty members held a debrief the next day, to ensure that any interested parties understood the weak points of his argument. What has changed to make him so unacceptable now? Is the difference Donald Trump in the White House? Certainly Trump's use of invective has inflamed the atmosphere, but how about our own local production of racial classification?

Ever since the Nazis fed anthropology texts into their bonfires, my profession has argued that race is a cultural fiction with no more basis in genetics than being French or Morrocan. There are no genes that make the behavior of a black race differ from the behavior of a white race. Far more important in shaping behavior and outcomes are cultural programming and social conditioning. And so as far as anthropologists are concerned, race is little more than a fetish or disguise for social class, ethnic or cultural differences.

Our arguments won over many American liberals, but we were not as successful with American conservatives. One conservative rejoinder was ... what? What do you mean there's no such thing as race? As far as they can see, racial determination of behavior and outcomes is common sense. For evidence they still appeal to the IQ scores that Charles Murray and his co- author deployed in their 1994 book. A second conservative rejoinder also became popular ... you're saying race is fictional? Wonderful! Now that we've outlawed discrimination, let's treat everyone equally, so we can stop worrying about race.

This second conservative rejoinder put liberals in an awkward position. Our only possible response was ... wait, wait, wait! We can't stop thinking about race because racist attitudes are still strong. Think about all the inherited inequalities — structural racism. And so the same liberals who argued that race is a cultural fiction now also had to argue that race is the hidden reality behind other forms of injustice. And so we learned to sing a complicated tune about race — or perhaps we sing two different tunes at the same time. Some of us (including myself) stress that any form of racial classification is a way of misleading ourselves. Others of us (including many who study race for a living) focus instead on uncovering its insidious impact in many realms of life.

At elite colleges like Middlebury, the challenge of making underrepresented minorities feel welcome has prompted many initiatives organized around the concept of race. This includes hiring faculty who, quite understandably, interpret their mandate to include identifying hidden racial agendas in a prevailing white environment. Judging from what some of our students now publish regularly on the oped pages of The Campus, race saturates every issue at Middlebury College. But does it really?

Long ago in 2001, in "Race Experts: How Racial Etiquette, Sensititivity Training and New Age Therapy Hijacked the Civil Rights Revolution," Elisabeth Lasch-Quinn pointed out that race activists increasingly perceive "a world of endless slights. Here racist crimes and social faux pas are one and the same — all inspired by a monolithic, unabated white racial hatred. All whites must confess to their inherent racism, or they are, in the words of the recovery movement, 'in denial.'" Yet if racial classification is a cultural fiction, if it is always a disguise for what's really going on, can anti-racism scholars and activists fall into the trap of propagating it rather than undermining it?

That they indeed can is argued by the sociologist Frank Furedi in "What's Happened to the University?" Interestingly, campus episodes that Americans might attribute to our penchant for racial divides, lawsuits and psycho-babble are, according to Furedi, also very common in Canada, Australia and Britain. What's shared by universities in each of these countries is the rapid spread of the "vulnerable groups" concept. This leads to what Furedi calls "the weaponization of emotions," that is, the public display of fragility and anger as political bargaining chips. Becoming offended has become an irrefutable rationale for ending discussion, which makes it a claim to entitlement. What's being demanded is administrative paternalism, Furedi concludes, which guarantees further cycles of infantilization.

Could a spiral of dependency and anger explain how, on our campus, the demand for inclusion and safe space has become a demand for intolerance? Is this why our anti-racism activists last week were hurling racial invective? I heard racial insults, not just against Charles Murray, but against white women, white liberals and students of color whom shut-it-downers accused of racial disloyalty. Racialism is what I think I was hearing. Racialism is the insistence that one's primary loyalty should be to one's own racial group. If this is really what you think, white supremacists agree with you.

Shine a Light on Abhorrent Ideas, Don't Shovel Them Under

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Alumnus Peter Mandel '79 *is a Providence-based author of children's books and a contributor to* The Washington Post *and* The Boston Globe.

There's little doubt that we are living in loud times. Many of us have an understandable wish to turn it down. Stop the sound, we think and maybe, somehow, we can find sanity in the ensuing silence.

Still, it's hard to describe my astonishment and that of other (mostly middle-aged) alumni in hearing about the events surrounding the recent Charles Murray lecture, and in reading the March 1st letter to The Campus, "Charles Murray at Middlebury: Unacceptable and Unethical, Say Over 450 Alumni."

Among the comments made by the letter's young signers (I couldn't find many, if any, that had graduated prior to 2000) is this one: "We, the undersigned, want to make clear to Old Chapel that the decision to bring Dr. Murray to campus is unacceptable and unethical. It is a decision that directly endangers members of the community and stains Middlebury's reputation..."

The letter says the following about Murray's work, such as it is: "This is the same thinking that motivates eugenics and the genocidal white supremacist ideologies which are enjoying a popular resurgence under the new presidential administration. It is the same thinking that pervades many of the policies, structures and attitudes that perpetuate the ever-worsening inequalities of American society today."

Unless I'm misunderstanding, it looks as if, in the very same letter that questions the lecturer's presence, you make an excellent case for why, in fact, his visit is relevant and vital given current events. But a broader question for many of us of a certain age is this one: Why do you see "danger" in the clash of ideas, instead of opportunity?

You're informed. You're sharp. Why not bring a bright light to bear on Murray and others like him? Why not welcome them into the midday glare that only a college campus full of educated and iconoclastic people can create? If you disagree with him, as I happen to, defend your turf. Do it so well and so strongly that the world will listen and remember your views.

You may feel that you can bury abhorrent ideas by depriving them of "platform." But, as you will probably learn, down in the darkness and silence bad ideas have a funny way of taking root. Those who espouse them don't disappear. Life doesn't work like that. And, as you may have realized in recent days, by trying to squelch thoughts you despise you award them far more currency than an evening's exchange.

You'll meet many fools and evil actors in your life ahead. And, whether in politics or science or the arts, many will hold an alarming degree of power. Listen to what they have to say. Laugh a little. Analyze. Marshal your arguments. Then strike. Make your rebuttal so rigorous, so ringing, so well-sourced, that you cannot help but win the day.

The Middlebury course catalog from way back in my time — the late 1970s — devoted its very first page, a full page, to a poem of Robert Frost's. I still have it here on my shelf. "Something we were withholding made us weak," wrote Frost in The Gift Outright. "Until we found out that it was ourselves."

All I'm asking is, in a way, what Frost asked: to not withhold yourselves. To give the Middlebury community and the world around it your gift of full-on engagement. Your gift of listening. Your gift of scrutiny. Your gift of debate.

Rethinking the Consequences of Neutrality

READER OP-ED

Tyler McDowell '19 writes in about staying neutral during last week's protest.

I wore a suit to protest Charles Murray.

I now need to explain that choice, for the record, for anyone who thinks it's a neutral fashion statement, and more importantly for the friends whose trust I fractured with the decision.

Background: AEI was hosting a dinner after the event during which people could engage in a formal conversation with our esteemed guest. I'm not a member of AEI, but asked them to attend that dinner so I could ask Murray pointed questions that made him uncomfortable and in that way celebrate a tiny victory over my own white supremacist ancestors. They OK'd my attendance, told me to wear a coat and tie and walk to the Abernethy room with them after the "talk" (presumably in step with Murray). I notified the Wonderbread email list and suggested they send me any questions they wanted asked. I decided to opt out of shutting him down, assured that I could defend my anger against Murray and simultaneously claim exemption from protesting because my energy was focused elsewhere.

So here's what wearing the suit communicated, given my abstention from protesting:

1. I support the College's decision to bring Charles Murray here.

2. My own intellectual curiosity is more important than the lives of those targeted by discriminatory pseudoscience.

3. Regardless of this de facto endorsement, I get a free "woke" badge for feebly challenging a white supremacist.

I ultimately decided to join in protesting anyway, at the last minute, because I had friends involved and wanted to support them. Once there, I got loud and found an anger I hadn't known before. It wasn't just the mob mentality talking. It felt good to shout down white supremacy. But I still felt compelled to go to the dinner. In the chaotic aftermath of Murray's flight to the Student Activities Office, I nonchalantly alternated between joining my friends in continued protest and talking with some acquaintances of mine from AEI, both to ask them if the dinner was still happening and to discuss their feelings about the protest. I assured them that I would still be civil when I attended the event, and chatted confidently and calmly while my friends kept chanting their voices hoarse.

In short, I actively protested and supported Charles Murray at the same time, to nearly the maximum degree possible in either direction, considering the limitations of my student role. Side note: I also jumped the line to get in. Yeah, I'm that low.

At this point it should be evident to anyone reading that this isn't really about the suit. Full disclosure: part of my decision had to do with the fact that I look fly in a suit and will not pass up an opportunity to wear one. I encourage everyone to wear whatever clothing you like, whenever you like. But the fact that I chose to wear a suit on this particular day, in the face of intense emotional turmoil and naked disciplinary threats toward my fellow protesters from the school many of us call home, and pretended everything was cool with the students who brought Charles Murray here, says something bigger about me.

Ultimately, my decisions meant:

4. The organizers' efforts are less important than my own, because I get to disproportionately reap the benefits of our efforts without the associated psychological and physical stress.

5. My contributions to this event are important and I get free social capital. And friends from AEI.

6. Even in anti-racist activism — no, especially in anti-racist activism — white supremacy and its cultural manifestations must remain intact. The suit is more important than my friends' humanity.

Overall, it means I cannot be trusted. I am an enemy in this fight for justice, and a sinister one: I remain dormant in the ranks and then I waltz in, co-opt the movement and actively undermine its strength. I may be the most insidious agent of white supremacy this campus has ever seen. How's that for a badge?

For those who are still confused, or think I'm being too hard on myself, let me be clear about something: I wanted to attend that dinner. Deep down, I respect Charles Murray, regardless of his views. He's an old, white, male intellectual, which is all I ever wanted to be growing up. It sounds silly, but I'm completely serious. That's who got respect and reverence in my culture. White patriarchs with money run the country, and I was raised on promises that if I worked hard enough, I could do that too. And send my kids to college, and retire in Florida with a sizable pension. And golf. In my universe, oppression ended with the Civil Rights Movement, and poor people never existed except in movies and brief snapshots of unusually clean city streets, so it didn't matter what kind of corporate greed was financing my parents. All I needed to do was study hard, and ignore my feelings. And smile. Oh, and holding differently colored hands helps you earn moral brownie points. I learned that from Elementary School textbooks.

Academia is my drug, and Middlebury College is an intellectual opium den for young rich assholes and social media progressives. (These are not mutually exclusive categories; I am living proof of that). The size of our endowment doesn't concern me; nor does the emotional state of those without my unearned wealth. I have very, very important things to learn here. Because I need a degree. Because I need a well-paying job. Because...

To my friends, and to anyone who helped organize or protest: last week, I betrayed you. I am ashamed and deeply sorry. I don't expect you'll forgive me. I just want you to know that I'll work three times as hard to make sure your professors and other members of the "Middlebury College community" never unwittingly buy into white supremacy again. It's too deeply woven into our minds to ignore anymore; it always has been. But you know that. Regardless of how this all plays out, I won't look back on my life in 30 years and recall fondly that I spent most of my time peacefully studying, gleefully building social connections and consistently getting smashed. Sorry, Middlebury, I'm not sorry.

Students with an upbringing at all similar to mine (you know who you are), I need you to hear this: you can't have your cake and eat it too. I leave you with a quotation from the famous Apartheid-era archbishop Desmond Tutu: "If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor."

You may have heard this line before, but let it sink in for a second. "If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor."

What we seem to forget is that country has never not been in a situation of injustice. It's past time that we stop pretending that neutrality is possible. That goes for all of us, especially President Patton. Let her and your professors know.

(I encourage anyone, and I mean anyone, who is curious or angry about any of this to talk about it. I am here for that if you need it. If you specifically want to yell at me for being the worst ally in history, I am also receptive to that idea. I hope this helps you think through your own life, if even a little bit. Please reach out, whenever, at tmcdowell@middlebury.edu.)

Villification from the Protesters

READER OP-ED

Wentao Zhai '17 considers relativity's role in last week's protest.

The controversy centered on Mr. Murray's talk last week taught me how exaggerated some protesters' rhetoric can become when used to vilify their ideological opponents. In my opinion, part of their rhetoric is not only moralistic and unconstructive, but also inaccurate and hypocritical.

Consider how the label "pseudo-science" is abused. I am not in the position to assess the rigor of Mr. Murray's theory, but I am sure that there is considerable distance between the grotesque caricatures of Mr. Murray's arguments and the much more cautious and agnostic arguments he actually put forward. As our Political Science department points out in an open letter, Mr. Murray is not a "charlatan." Some of his claims, such as the inheritability of intelligence have in fact been confirmed by the peer-reviewed "Mainstream Science on Intelligence" on the Wall Street Journal. Furthermore, if those who accuse Mr. Murray's theory as pseudo-science are consistent in their belief in science, they should renounce equally spurious theories such as, say, alternative medicine. The fact that they distinguish one from the other indicates that their opinion is based on moral judgment, rather than scientific merit.

It gives me even more qualms to read statements like "Murray puts human dignity at risk". The concept of "human dignity" belongs in the realm of philosophy and/or faith, which can be neither proven nor refuted by any statistical analysis. As far as I understand, Mr. Murray's thesis in The Bell Curve only posits that (a) intelligence, in the crude and flawed way we understand it, may be genetic and may correlate with race; and that (b) intelligence may be an effective indicator of socio-economic divide. If we overlook the many asterisks and qualifications involved, and push this statement to its logical extreme, as so many scientific discoveries have been wrongfully presented in popular media, we get that "poor people are dumb." Yet even when put in this grossly simplistic language, I fail to see how "human dignity" is compromised — unless we are to believe that dumb or poor people are somehow sub-human in dignity. I do not believe Mr. Murray's protesters hold such an outrageous idea. Rather, I believe they have been deliberately lax in their phrasing in order to stir the emotions of their audience.

Even before some protesters physically injured Professor Stanger, this exaggerated rhetoric has produced immediate, tangible harm. Granted, being an influential writer, Mr. Murray does not strictly need the platform at Middlebury in order to make his opinions known to the public. But what about the rest of the student body? What about students (of which I am sure there is a great number) interested in listening to Mr. Murray just for the topic of the talk, namely class divide in white America? Their right to engage in meaningful conversation, even if in disagreement, has been forcefully sacrificed on the altar of a progressive orthodoxy. This is neither just nor expedient: just as name-calling has not persuaded Trump supporters in the general election, the strategies of protesters on Thursday will not garner much sympathy from students who are undecided on this matter.

As if this is not enough, they have also used social media to target students of color who spoke out in defense of Mr. Murray's right to free speech, suggesting that these students have colluded with white supremacists. Admittedly, Mr. Murray is at an advantage in terms of institutional power (but still, he is far from the policy maker at our or any other college); the same cannot be said about students who wished to hear him speak. It is ironic how some protesters' ad hominem attacks have been more malign and hurtful than Mr. Murray's dubious claims. Such is the extent of the fanaticism of the Left. Such is the kind of intellectual witch-hunt they are willing to initiate in order to protect the purity of their doctrine.

The fierce opponents of Mr. Murray must confess that censorship is good and obligatory when certain moral imperatives are at risk. They must admit that they would purge a view because they value science not as much as they value the outcome of their crusade. They are not friends of the Enlightenment thinkers, who were willing to challenge social taboo on morality in order to promote open debate. On the contrary, they are akin to religious fundamentalists who would defend at all costs an idea that they believe to be capital Truth. At most, they see liberty as a means rather than a principle. However, the moment liberty is suspended for an ulterior end, it ceases to be liberty. Liberty as anything other than a principle is hardly liberty at all.

Sure, I respect all sorts of moral crusaders for their devotion to a noble cause. However, I would be skeptical of their hypocrisy if they start to uphold the banner once pioneered by the likes of John Stuart Mill, and denounce historical and contemporary tyrannies, as if they are truly concerned with ideas like tolerance or freedom.

To President Patton

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Alumnus Peter Knobler '68 writes to President Patton about the administrative response to last week's protest.

Dear President Patton:

I question the decision to offer the imprimatur of Middlebury's forum to Mr. Murray. The College can do better than lend its stature to a man of such racism and bigotry. It can encourage intellectual diversity by offering courses and events which include among their teachings, and in context, his brand of pseudoscience — but given the College's mandate to pursue honor and intellectual rigor, I believe the decision to bring him on campus was a poor one.

I also take exception to your use of the phrase "outside agitators." As you of course know, that phrase gained its greatest currency during the civil rights protests of the 1960s, when it was used by many racist Southern apologists, notably Alabama's Governor George Wallace, to deflect responsibility for their refusal to address the grievances of their citizens. One is not limited in one's right to protest by geography. As one of Middlebury's own outside agitators who left campus in 1965 to march into Montgomery with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., I find your decision to use that phrase particularly offensive.

The disruption that occurred concerning Mr. Murray and Professor Stanger could have been avoided altogether by a more considered decision not to invite him to speak on campus in the first place. There are many available speakers across the political, economic and social spectrum. Middlebury is under no obligation, intellectual or otherwise, to offer its embrace to white supremacists and bigots.

Sincerely,

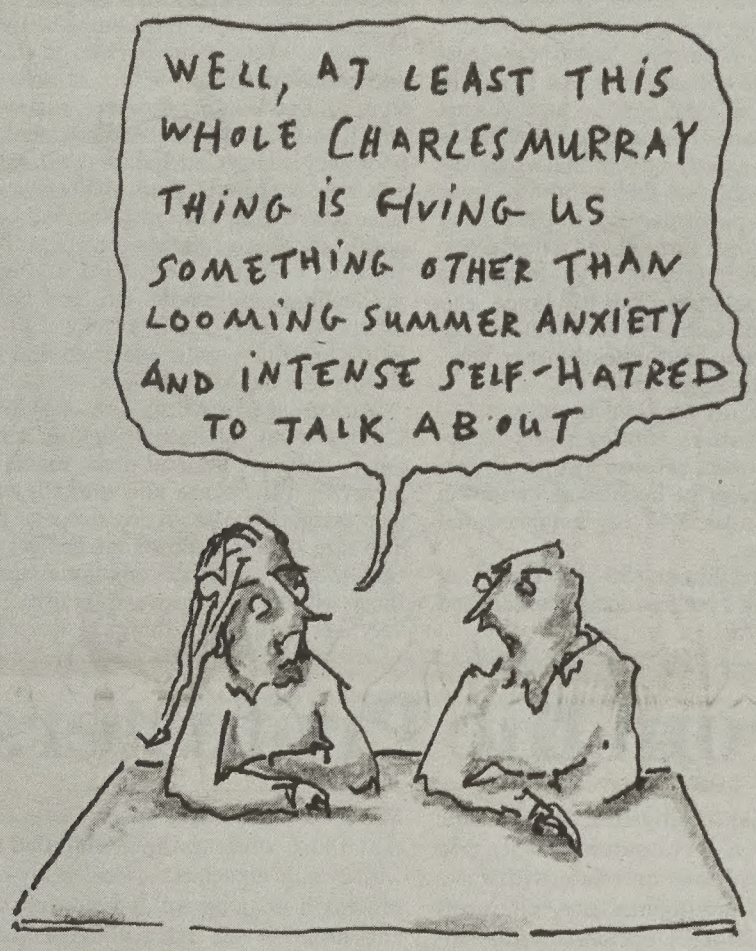
Peter Knobler '68

CARTOONS

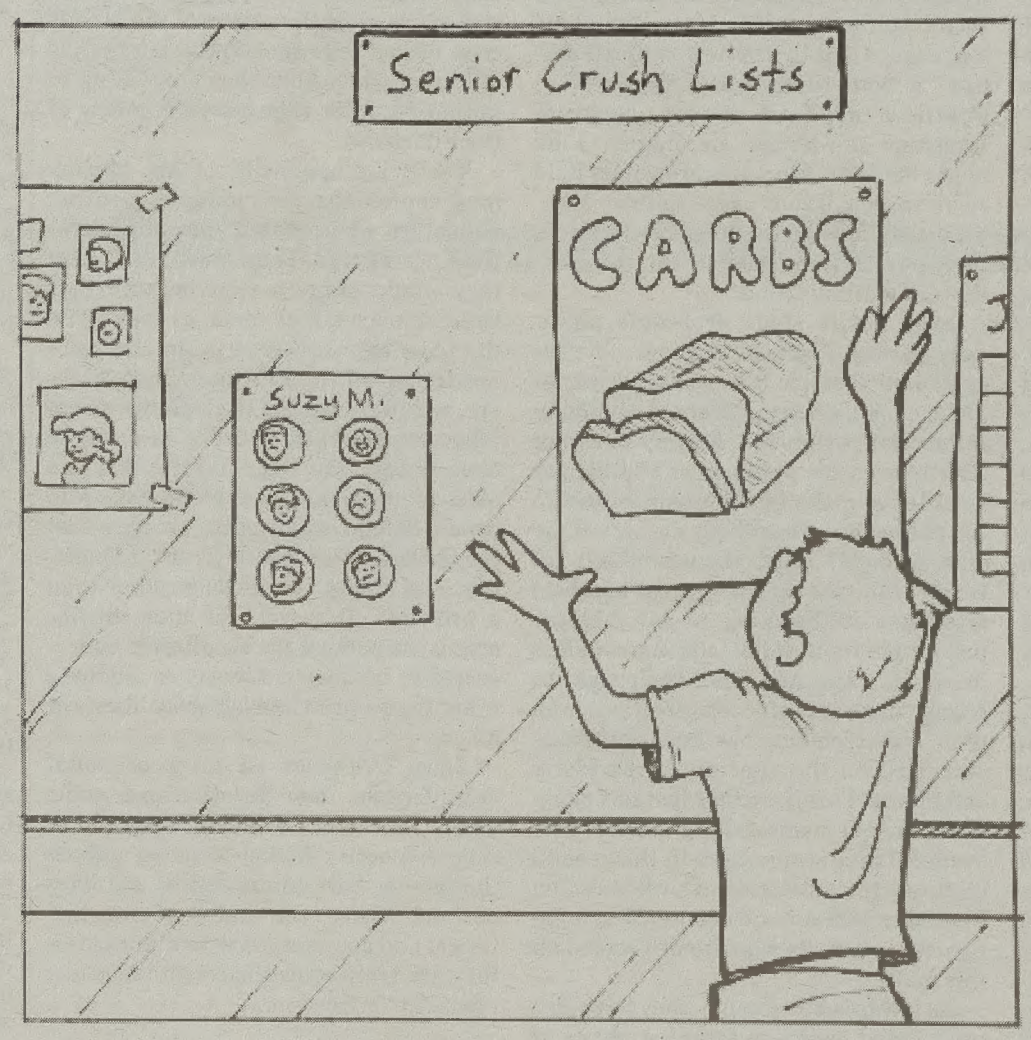
The Middlebury Campus

College Cats: Senior Year by Emily Cox go/comicsbyemily

EMILY COX


WELL, AT LEAST THIS WHOLE CHARLES MURRAY THING IS GIVING US SOMETHING OTHER THAN LOOMING SUMMER ANXIETY AND INTENSE SELF-HATRED TO TALK ABOUT

MILLIE VON PLATEN



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Middlebury and Murray: Re

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Parts of his methodology have been challenged, especially his use of certain data to arrive at more general conclusions on the nature versus nurture debate. "The Bell Curve" and some of Murray's later comments have resulted in his classification as a "white nationalist" by many, including the Southern Poverty Law Center, a nonprofit legal advocacy organization "dedicated to fighting hate and bigotry," as stated on their website.

An Invitation to Speak

Murray has spoken at Middlebury before, once in April 2007, on "The Bell Curve." The event sparked controversy but not to the same extent of last Thursday; it was not covered in *The Campus*. Last semester, the College chapter of AEI gathered to discuss an invitation for an expert from the organization to deliver a guest lecture. They made a list of academics associated with AEI and submitted it to the national organization.

AEI told the College chapter that Murray had accepted the invitation partly because of his close relationship with the College: he is the parent of a Middlebury graduate. The College chapter was provided funding by the national organization to host Murray and facilitate the talk. "Our goal ... was to create a discussion on campus. We thought that his work on "Coming Apart" was really prescient," AEI Vice President Alexander Khan '17 said.

In the AEI chapter on campus, the executive board — which made the final decision to bring Murray to campus — disagreed on the best format for his planned lecture. Violet Low-Beinart '19, a member of the board and a democrat, floated the possibility of treating this event differently than other academic lectures and offered the idea of a moderated panel format.

"We are a diverse group who hold a range of opinions and political ideologies," she said of the board's final decision not to pursue a panel format.

Addressing the internal debate, Phil Hoxie '17.5, president and chair of the AEI executive council, determined that disagreement among board members was due to expectations of social ramifications. "I think the concerns were more of how this would be perceived [by] other people and not wanting to deal with what we're dealing with right now," he said.

Organizing Resistance

By evening on Feb. 24, several months after the AEI had scheduled Murray's talk, the decision to bring Murray to the College had escalated into a campus-wide controversy. Over the weekend of Feb. 25-26, Middlebury Resistance, College Democrats, Wonderbread, other clubs and ad-hoc organizations were already beginning substantive organization efforts. Some of the first goals that emerged were to get the Department of Political Science to rescind its co-sponsorship in the event, to urge President of Middlebury Laurie L. Patton to not appear at the event and to pressure either the College or AEI to retract the invitation altogether.

On Monday, Feb. 27. Professors and students together led organizing efforts, which soon divided into two different groups: those who wished to carry out non-disruptive protests, and those who wished to shut down the event and prevent Murray from speaking.

Arianna Reyes '18 and Sami Lamont '17 helped solidify and structure the protests. Both students saw the event as an opportunity to take action and support values they care deeply about. "I was thinking a lot about what's been going on in the world and how I've been really passive before right now in terms of actually organizing," Reyes said.

Lamont explained that she took a de facto leadership role in the opposition when she realized the opposition energy could use additional direction and structure.

"It was seeing all the ideas floating around just on Facebook and then realizing that we needed a place to consolidate that if anything was going to happen," she said, commenting on her decision to get involved.

However, both Reyes and Lamont quickly recognized that the protest efforts could never be completely uniform. Reyes focused on the group of students who wished to disrupt the speech, while Lamont instead helped run meetings that brainstormed non-disruptive methods of resistance.

"I was always definitely supportive of a diversity of tactics," Reyes said. "I wasn't trying to go against anyone and what they were doing."

On Wednesday, March 1, the political science department held a community meeting for the purpose of providing a forum to ask questions about the department's cosponsorship and to discuss the event more generally. In the course of the meeting, political science faculty also revealed internal divisions. Department Chair and Associate Professor of Political Science Bertram Johnson had previously sent an email around that provided insight into the department's own debate over the sponsorship.

> ***"This is different because we are uncomfortable. Because I am uncomfortable. Because we are asked to be with you and think about what our responsibilities are when we navigate between the free exchange of ideas and our commitment to the community."***
>
> SARAH STROUP
> ASSOCIATE PPROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

Associate Professor of Political Science Sarah Stroup offered an opening statement that presented her own mixed feelings about the lecture, as well as her thoughts on what made this event so unusual for the department.

"I think that it's a trope in higher education that we are supposed to make [students] uncomfortable, and I will be honest that most of the time, we do not join you as faculty in that endeavor," she said. "This is different because we are uncomfortable. Because I am uncomfortable. Because we are asked to be with you and think about what our responsibilities are when we navigate between the free exchange of ideas and our commitment to the community."

Over an hour, the political science department offered different viewpoints of the controversy, from steadfast defenses of the decision to invite him to campus, to expressions of revulsion at Murray's views and to encouragements of protest.

A Contentious Afternoon

On March 2, the day of the event, organizers made final efforts to assemble their response with signs, emails and brochures. The Middlebury AEI and the College Republicans clubs, which have partly shared leadership, called for members to arrive at the event as early as possible.

"This has become, for Alexander [Khan] and I, a battle for free speech and liberalism. We do not believe that Dr. Murray is what others claim him to be," Hoxie wrote in an email.

More than an hour before the talk was penned to begin at 4:30 p.m., students, faculty and community members began lining up outside of McCullough Student Center.

The earliest arrivals were predominantly protesters. Many held signs with declarations like "Respect Resistance," "F*ck White Supremacy," "F*ck Eugenics," and "Charles Murray Is Fake News." On the lawn nearby, non-student activists gathered, and the flag of the Anti-Fascist movement flapped in the breeze. These activists, and anyone else not part of the college community, were not allowed inside the event.

Finally, the doors to the lecture opened and students went inside — but, due to capacity issues, only a fraction of those outside got seats.

Vice President for Communications and Chief Marketing Officer Bill Burger took the stage and stated the Middlebury guidelines on guest speakers, protests and demonstrations. His short speech incited several responses from the protesters.

"Middlebury College does not allow disruptive behavior at a community event or on campus. Disruptions may include purposefully blocking the view of others," Burger said. To this, an unidentified student in the crowd said, "And inviting white supremacists."

Burger continued, "Banners or items that block the audience's view," and the crowd immediately raised their signs high in response.

"You're going to love this next part," he said. "Noise or action that disrupts the ability of the audience to hear." At that, the audience burst into cheers, drowning out the rest of Burger's sentence.

> ***"I think that it's so necessary and important that we try to change the culture on campus and create one of intellectual diversity."***
>
> ALEXANDER KHAN '17
> VICE-PRESIDENT AND MEMBER OF THE MIDDLEBURY AEI EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Crowd outbursts and jeers continued through the opening speeches of Khan and Middlebury AEI Executive Council Member Ivan Valladares '17. When President Patton took stage, she was met with a combination of boos and applause. However, after delivering her remarks, the crowd responded only with applause.

"We are an intellectual community, and part of a job of an intellectual community is to argue. If there ever was a time for Americans to take on arguments that affect us, it is now," she said.

Murray finally walked on stage, and the crowd erupted into boos and chants. "This is going to be a real anti-climax," he said. At that point, protesters stood up, turned around and together began reciting a pre-written speech.

"This is not respectful discourse or a debate about free speech," they said. "These are not ideas that can be fairly debated. It is not 'representative' of the other side to give a platform to such dangerous ideologies. There is not a potential for an equal exchange of ideas."

The speech then transformed into chants. These included: "Who is the enemy? White supremacy!" "Your message is hatred; we cannot tolerate it!" "Charles Murray, go away; Middlebury says 'no way!'"

After ten minutes, Burger walked on stage again to announce that the format of the talk would transform into an interactive, livestreamed discussion between Murray and moderator Allison Stanger, the Russell J. Leng '60 professor of international politics and economics. The two moved to an undisclosed location to film their conversation, a backup prepared in advance.

Over the course of Murray and Stanger's discussion that lasted more than an hour (now available on the Middlebury News Room) some members in the crowd dispersed. But many protesters remained in the auditorium and continued chanting. The protests continued outside, as well, where some spoke into megaphones and sounded off sirens and drums. They had discovered the location of the live stream and made noise outside its window — in the video, their efforts can be heard clearly.

Back inside the auditorium, as administrators attempted to get the livestream projected onto the screen, tensions between protesters and attendees escalated. Students yelled at each other across Wilson Hall. "Respect free speech!" was shouted to some protesters. One protester yelled, "F*ck white supremacy!" to a group of students attempting to view the livestream. In response, one of those viewers shouted, "F*ck censorship!" The altercation ended when the protester yelled back, "F*ck free speech!"

Protesters and attendees alike dispersed as time went on, but a sizeable group of around 20 students continued to chant over Murray's talk. Many students left to view the speech elsewhere. Outside the McCullough Student Center, a majority of protesters had left by 6 p.m.

About 15 protesters remained standing one entrance to McCullough, still yelling at the window of the room in which Murray was speaking. Among this group were non-student activists. Some protesters wore face masks to conceal their identities. Two masked protesters unfurled a banner that read, "Choke on your silver spoon, you f*cking Nazi."

As Murray's talk neared its end, the protesters dispersed around McCullough to cover all the entrances, waiting for his exit.

The events that followed caused the protests to draw attention from national news outlets, but the details and nuances of that day remain uncertain. What is agreed upon by Burger's statements to the media, Stanger's public Facebook post, Murray's statement on AEI's website and President Patton's statements to the community is the following claim: When Murray exited the building, escorted by Burger and Stanger, the group was approached by protesters, several with their faces covered and some of whom were non-students. As Stanger and Murray attempted to get inside a car, protesters allegedly placed themselves in their path.

Murray was not physically harmed in the ensuing confrontation, but Stanger suffered from a neck injury following a physical altercation that transpired after she attempted to shield Murray and usher him to their vehicle. Stanger experienced whiplash that evening. On the following Sunday, she was diagnosed with a concussion. She was taken to Porter Hospital on both days.

Beyond this series of events, the nature of the confrontation and its many facets remain disputed. An article on the student-run blog Middbeat, unaffiliated with the administration, shared the perspective of anonymous students who claimed to be present at the conflict. Other recollections have provided contradictory details and viewpoints, and the questions of what happened, who initiated what and who exactly is at fault have ignited widespread and contentious debate, both on and off campus.

Following the day's events, two seperate investigations are being launched; one an independent investigation by the College, the other an investigation into the confrontation that took place outside of McCullough to be done by the Middlebury Police Department, said President Patton in an email to the community last Monday.

"There is hard work ahead for all of us," Patton wrote in her email. "Learning to be accountable to one another, and learning to stand in community with one another."

Community Response

By Friday, March 3, Murray had departed, and students, faculty and staff awoke to a world suddenly focused on their college. The first reports of Stanger's injury appeared in *VTDigger* and the *Addison Independent*, but national news outlets soon began running the story.

Within the College community, many have been asking, "What do these events mean?" In an email sent on Friday, Patton spoke of the event as a disappointing display of a deep divide in College culture.

"Last night we failed to live up to our core values," she said in the message. "But I remain hopeful."

"This was the saddest day of my life," Stanger posted publicly to Facebook on Saturday, March 4. "We have got to do better by those who feel and are marginalized ... We must all realize the precious inheritance we have as fellow Americans and defend the Constitution against all its enemies, both foreign and domestic."

For Khan and Hoxie, the disruptions and confrontation took them by surprise and seemed to confirm their fears about the state of freedom of speech on campus.

"If we're not willing to listen to each other and we're not willing to listen to what we have to say because we feel that that person might say something that we find offensive, or even hateful, we're going to be in real trouble," Hoxie said. "I firmly believe that freedom is one generation away from being extinct. We're going to vote it away."

Many students who participated in the protests expressed disappointment at the violent conclusion to events, but they also felt some satisfaction with the effectiveness of the protests within Wilson Hall and a determination to continue pushing these issues in the future.

"[The initial protest] was incredibly successful because we coordinated all of these people to turn around and that was a really powerful statement," Reyes said. "It was successful because we did get [Murray and Professor Stanger] to leave Wilson Hall."

Lamont and Reyes do not view the division as one that pits proponents of free speech against those who are willing to restrict free speech in pursuit of some other goal.

"That's one thing [President Patton] mentions a lot in [her statements on] rhetorical resilience — confidence in debate — and I think one big reason why we were not into talking to Murray is that he's shown that he's pretty confident in his ideas and he's not really about talking to them and engaging and reconsidering," Lamont said.

For other students, however, the disruption of Murray's talk and subsequent violence brought to the forefront a significant problem engrained in the community.

"The manner in which he was shut down lacked civility and, in my opinion, did not respect the rights of those students (many who disagree with him ideologically) but who, nevertheless, wanted to hear him speak and/or engage with him at an intellectual level," said Abdi Mohamed '18.5.

As of this writing, it is unclear exactly how the community will respond to these events. As Johnson said, "I think one of the more powerful things we can say in this moment is 'I don't know'. I don't really know what's next."

Many see the events as having unleashed a deep and possibly irreconcilable gulf between students, while others see them as a way to come together, hash out differences and determine a path to progress. According to Lamont, preperations are already being made for meetings and discussions in the coming weeks.

Khan viewed the events as an opportunity for the community to reassess its values and culture, and to push back against attempts to stifle opposing views. "I don't want the moral of this story to be that Middlebury couldn't handle a viewpoint that wasn't consistent with their own. I think that it's so necessary and important that we try to change the culture on campus and create one of intellectual diversity."

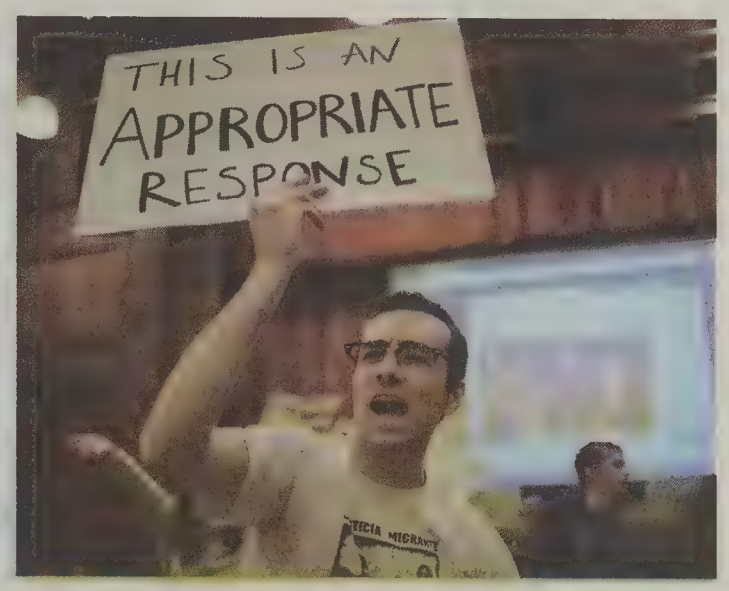
In an email sent out on Monday, March 6, President Patton reinforced this call for community building and discussion.

"This week, we will mark the beginning of opportunities for reflection and engagement," she said. "We have much to discuss — our differences on the question of free speech and on the role of protest being two of the most pressing examples. In addition, I am extending an invitation to everyone to submit community-building ideas for consideration."

"I'm committed to working on whatever's next, and I'm grateful for those people on various sides of this who have reached out to have conversations," Johnson said. "That's how we're going to proceed — through having conversations."

Additional reporting done by Christian Jambora and Will DiGravio.

: Resistance & Reflections



Murray Protests Gain National Traction

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The New York Times featured the incident over several articles, including an editorial published on the front page of its website, titled, "Smothering Speech at Middlebury." The editorial board criticized protesters' refusal to lend Murray a platform to speak, labeling the event "a violent free-speech debacle."

The board wrote, "Mr. Murray is an academic with an argument to make about class in America ... and maybe it is flawed. But Middlebury students had no chance to challenge him on any of his views. Thought and persuasion, questions and answers, were eclipsed by intimidation."

Fox News reproduced an essay written by Murray following the events. His reflection originally appeared on the blog of the American Enterprise Institute (AEI), the public policy think tank whose branch at the College invited Murray to deliver a guest lecture.

In his piece, Murray wrote, "Academia is already largely sequestered in an ideological bubble, but at least it's translucent. That bubble will become opaque."

College faculty utilized several of these platforms to voice their own commentary on the matter, as well.

Professor of English and Creative Writing Jay Parini and Assistant Professor of Political Science Keegan Callanan wrote an opinion piece for *The Wall Street Journal*, outlining the core principles they deem "unassailable in the context of higher education within a free society." These principles were endorsed by over 60 faculty members at the College.

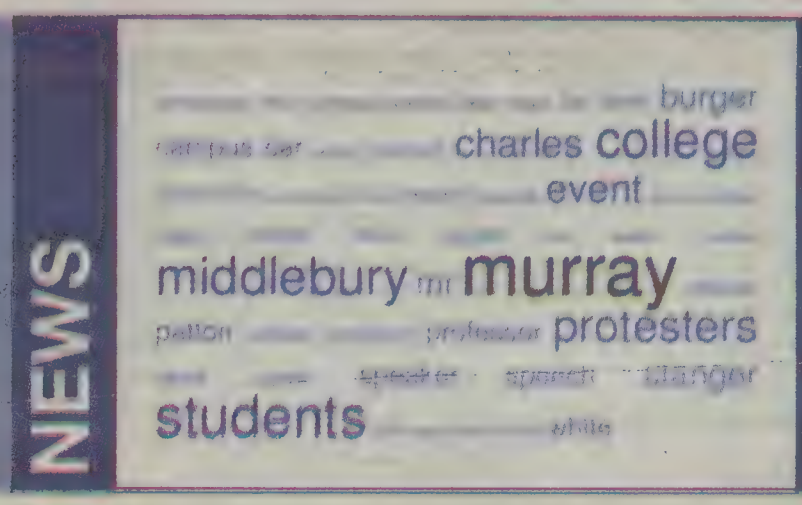
Included in this core principles list are the following statements: "Exposure to controversial points of view does not constitute violence ... Students have the right to challenge and even to protest non-disruptively the views of their professors and guest speakers ... The purpose of college is not to make faculty or students comfortable in their opinions and prejudices."

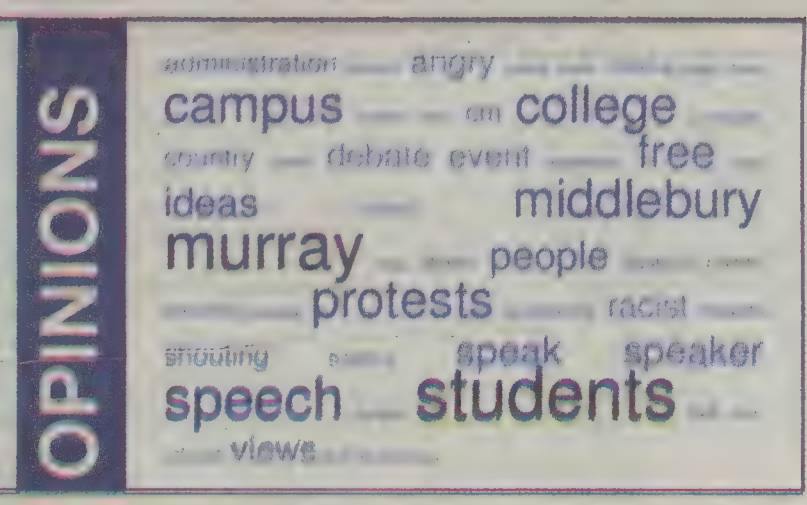
Although a majority of news outlets openly denounced the events, not every publication ran condemnatory views on the matter.

Dean Spade of *The Chronicle of Higher Education* wrote, "It is not fair to portray student activists as troublemakers damaging the institution's reputation. First, it is not the students' responsibility to portray their colleges as wonderful destinations if they are not experiencing them that way. Second, the disruptive activists are often the same students who are leading student organizations, mentoring new students, pipelining high schoolers, and otherwise devoting themselves to making the institution more accessible and survivable for marginalized people."

What are people saying?

Wordclouds developed from eight different News and Opinions pieces from national media. Created using tagcrowd.com.





SGA BILL PROPOSED IN LIGHT OF CAMPUS RESPONSE TO CHARLES MURRAY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Senator Rae Aaron '19.5, Community Council Co-Chair Travis Sanderson '19 and SGA Chief of Staff Jin Sohn '18.

Members of the College's American Enterprise Institute (AEI) Club, the group that invited Murray to campus, attended the March 5 SGA meeting and have expressed opposition to the bill.

"I think that applying community standards to speakers in the form of an appeals board is a truly dangerous concept, it's a censorship board," said AEI President and Executive Council Chair Phil Hoxie '17.5

It is the fear of some, including Huxie and AEI Vice President and Executive Council Member Alexander Khan '17, that an appeals process may prevent certain speakers who do not hold prevailing political beliefs from speaking on campus.

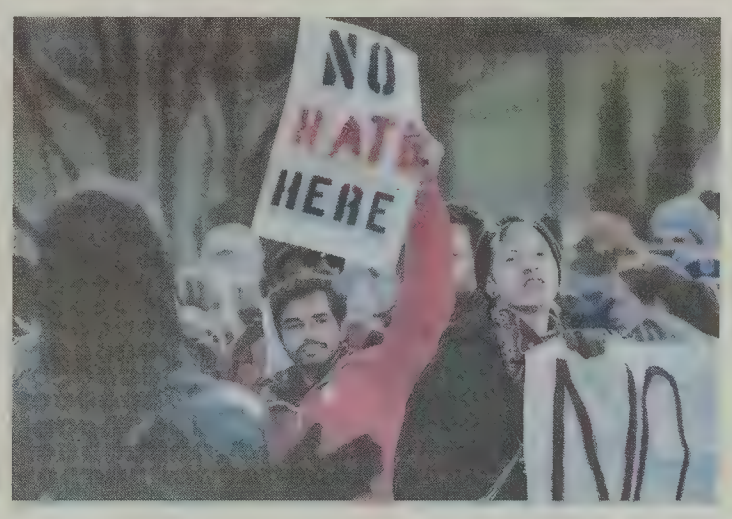
"To have any type of mechanism whereby students who disagree with a speaker have the ability to block that speaker from coming to campus is basically an institutional mechanism for shutting down discourse," Khan said. "Subjecting speakers brought either by a department or by a club to a set of community standards can easily become a requirement that speakers follow or believe in a certain political ideology that is dictated by people in charge of those community standards."

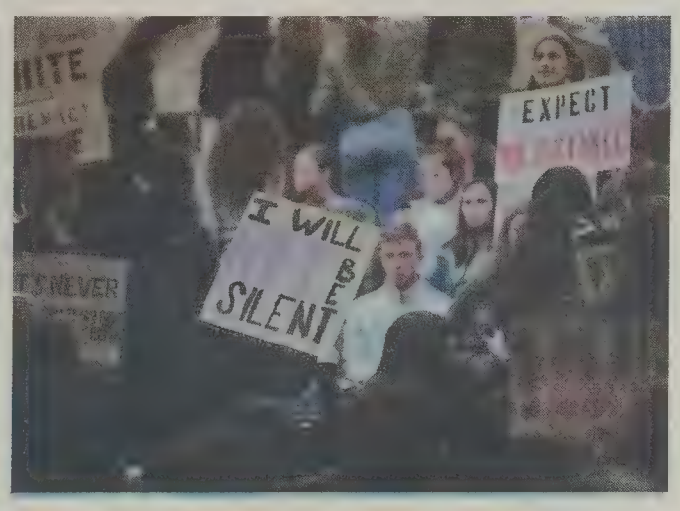
SGA President Karina Toy '17 emphasised that an appeals committee would only provide students with a platform to express their grievances over the invitation of a certain speaker.

"[This is] not an appeals process to say someone can't bring a speaker on campus but to give students a process of how they express their disagreement with a speaker or an event happening on campus," she said "That's all very much up in the air."

A final version of the bill will be discussed, and potentially voted on, at the March 12 meeting of the SGA.

Additional reporting by Ellie Reinhardt (Editor-in-Chief).





Designed by Cordelia Prouvost, photos by Lucy Pappas (upper left) and Michael O'Hara

Students Attend J Street Conference in D.C.

By James Finn
Contributing Writer

Members of the College's chapter of J Street U attended the annual J Street conference in Washington, D.C. the weekend of February 24-26. J Street is a national lobbying organization that promotes discussion and political policies to work towards a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

J Street U is the university student branch of J Street and works to provide college students with platforms on their campuses for discussion and activism surrounding the conflict. J Street U brought students from across the United States to D.C. to hear speakers ranging from Bernie Sanders to officials from the Obama administration to members of Israel's Knesset, or parliament, speak on a range of issues pertaining to the conflict.

> ***"It was interesting to see how J Street reached out to marginalized groups within the United States to hold a dialogue about how the Jewish community can interact with them in positive ways."***
>
> ROBBIE KELLEY '19.5
> CONFERENCE PARTICIPANT

"Over 1000 students from J Street U attended," said Celia Alter '19.5, president of the Middlebury J Street U chapter. "It was a gathering of thousands of pro-peace Americans who want a two-state solution in Israel."

Speakers shared an array of different perspectives surrounding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, ranging from policy opinions to personal experiences and views, students said.

"The breakdown of speakers was mainly Jewish, including some members of the Knesset, as well as activists and policy makers from other walks of life," Robbie Kelley '19.5 said. Kelly was another student who attended the conference. "My favorite speakers were those from the Obama administration, because I'm more interested in the policy side of things and those were the issues that they spoke to."

According to Alter, she attended panels that focused on the social side of the conflict.

"There were many speakers there, and since there were usually multiple panels at once, I was only able to hear from a small portion," Alter said. "My favorite small panel was one called Combating Islamophobia, which discussed the causes of Islamophobia in the U.S. and the importance of Jews and Muslims supporting each other."

Many speakers shared views on ways that U.S. residents can engage in productive dialogue about the conflict among separate groups with different views.

"It was interesting to see how J Street reached out to marginalized groups within the United States to hold a dialogue about how the Jewish community can interact with them in positive ways," Kelley said. "Discussions like those seem to be the main way that J Street U goes about its activism, and is something that I strongly agree with."

J Street U has been an active organization at Middlebury in the past but didn't have a presence on campus when Alter arrived last year, so she decided to restart it. She saw the presence of a chapter at Middlebury as an opportunity for students to engage in discourse and activism about an issue that holds precedence for many Americans at this time.

"The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is a major current issue, and I believe there should be a space on campus to discuss it," Alter said. "Although we are affiliated with the national organizations J Street and J Street U, students with any perspectives and beliefs are welcome to join our discussions. I also want to give Middlebury students a place for activism around the Israeli-Palestinian conflict."

SARAH ASCH
Eight students from Middlebury College's chapter of J Street U attended the J Street conference in Washington, D.C. the weekend of March 24-26.

Rabbi Ira Schiffer, an associate chaplain and Hillel advisor to the college who works with the Middlebury J Street U chapter, has found that the club creates an inclusive space for discussion.

"In my experience, J Street U at Middlebury has been a responsible and reasonable place for students to engage with each other, and with faculty and staff, from the perspective of wanting to see a resolution of the conflict that would be fair to both Palestinian national aspirations and to the security of the State of Israel," Schiffer said.

> ***"In my experience, J Street U at Middlebury has been a responsible and reasonable place for students to engage with each other, and with faculty and staff, from the perspective of wanting to see a resolution of the conflict that would be fair to both Palestinian national aspirations and to the security of the State of Israel."***
>
> RABBI IRA SCHIFFER
> ASSOCIATE CHAPLAIN

Students said that, overall, the conference provided a valuable opportunity to engage with an array of perspectives surrounding the conflict and to gain a insight into the magnitude of the process of beginning to resolve tensions in Israel-Palestine.

"I learned so much at the conference, but left with more questions than I started with," Alter said. "I was glad to learn what different leaders are doing in the current political climates and it helped solidify my own political beliefs."

Kelley agreed. "My overall takeaways include the fact that there is an immense uphill battle ahead of us, even to keep a two-state solution viable over the next couple of years," Kelley said.

Schiffer expressed his excitement that students were able to attend the conference and bring new ideas back with them. "Being at a small, liberal arts college in rural Vermont, conferences such as J Street's national conference are important opportunities for our students," Schiffer said. "[These are opportunities] to meet other students from across the country to share and learn first-hand how issues are perceived and addressed at different institutes of higher learning and in non-academic settings."

Market Muing: Snapchat Implements IPO

By Jackson Adams
Columnist

This past week, newspapers were awash with articles about the IPO of Snapchat's parent company, Snap Inc., which makes now the perfect time to explain the juicy, enigmatic and colossally overhyped concept of an Initial Public Offering. If you pay zero attention to financial news, you'll just have to take my word for it: the concept of "taking a company public" is downright fetishized. Here's a quick primer on why.

At its most basic, an IPO is just a way for a company to raise capital (the money needed to run or expand a business). To raise capital, companies have a few options. They can take out a loan from a bank, sell bonds (which is a bit like taking out a bunch of tiny loans from thousands of people) or they can sell equity. Equity is an ownership stake in the company entitling the owner of said stake to a slice of the company and its future profits. Usually equity owners are also entitled to voting rights giving them a say in how a company is managed. Equity, unlike debt (loans or bonds), does not necessarily obligate a company to pay interest at a regular interval and never involves paying back the principal (the initial sum invested). This is great if your young company is not yet profitable and thus the likelihood that you can make regular interest payments is low.

Equity comes in two forms: public and private. Private equity is what most young companies that want to sell equity will use. Young firms tend to be smaller and riskier, and private equity positions are less liquid than public equity (i.e. there are restrictions on when the stakes can be bought or sold and to whom, and the stakes are larger). The benefit is that private equity investors get in on the ground floor and are generally allowed a much greater say in how a firm grows and what direction it takes.

When a company "goes public" they start to sell equity in the public stock markets (stock = equity). This means their share price (and, by proxy, the value of their firm) is in the hands of public investors. Everyone from your grandmother to a multi-billion-dollar pension fund can buy and sell pieces as they wish.

This is risky. Public markets can be fickle, and if the public markets have negative sentiment towards the company they will push the share price down, making the company less valuable. This has ramifications for future financing because poor stock performance (a falling share price) implies the company is not financially strong or worth financing. Theoretically, the share price can also fall to zero implying the company is worthless. Dropping share prices also mean the ownership stakes of the founders and private investors lose value.

But the benefits to going public often outweigh the risks. One benefit is that the public equity markets are massive. The New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) where SNAP started trading has $20 trillion worth of capital already invested, and people all over the world can invest if they so choose. The other benefit is that going public makes equity positions "liquid." Essentially, the founders as well as private equity investors can now sell shares to cash in. These "liquidity events" have the power to mint new millionaires and even billionaires overnight, and if the stock price rises rapidly on public excitement, all the better.

Yet in the world of modern finance, there is plenty of private capital to go around. Uber is worth north of $60 billion and its CEO says they are not planning to go public any time soon, Jackson National Life Insurance Company has over $200 billion in assets but it has never touched the stock market. Plus, there are "secondary offerings" all the time. Companies frequently sell more shares in the public markets after they had already gone public, and yet nobody gets all hot and bothered about those. So why the excitement around initial public offerings?

IPOs matter so much because tapping the public markets for the first time is a rite of passage. Even if an initial public offering is nothing special, it feels special. People rhapsodize about how companies that have IPOed have made it to the big leagues. Somehow the process imparts a certain *je ne sais quoi* on a company. And it's exciting! Sure, it's usually a bit awkward, painful, messy even, but the potential payoff is big.

SNAP shares were up 44 percent by the end of the first day of trading and another 10 percent by the end of trading last Friday. Sentiment seems to suggest that Snap Inc. is the next great social media winner with predictions that it might be the next Facebook. Facebook shares are up 260 percent or so since the IPO in 2012 valuing it at just under $400 billion. Snap Inc.'s $30-ish billion pales in comparison, but it's nothing to sneeze at. Snapchat's ability to target young consumers between the ages of 13 to 25 makes it invaluable to advertisers.

The problem is that SNAP isn't profitable and has no clear plan to start generating a profit any time soon. "Monetize" isn't just a buzzword, it's an imperative command for tech businesses that hope to stay alive. Sheer optimism cannot sustain a stock forever. Daily active user growth for Snapchat slowed substantially towards the end of last year and if growth plateaus, optimism – and with it, share price – is sure to plummet.

SNAP shares also come with no voting rights which makes them less attractive long-term to investors. If large investors get no say in the business decisions, there is less incentive for them to invest in the first place, and less incentive to hold shares when the company is doing poorly in the hopes that they can orchestrate a turnaround by influencing company policy. Evan Spiegel is judge, jury and executioner.

Given the headwinds, the majority of analysts covering the stock as of last Friday say it's a "sell." They have an average price target about 1 percent below the IPO price of $17 which also means a hefty 50 percent drop from the Friday close.

All in all, SNAP is welcome to pop the champagne. If SNAP can continue to perform, then maybe, just maybe, its sky-high valuation is justified. Here's hoping Snap Inc. really is something more than just the company that once created a sexting app. But only time will tell if Snap Inc.'s valuation will prove to be just as ephemeral as the eponymous messages themselves.

Disclosure: This article does not constitute any sort of financial or investment advice and should not be construed as such.

RAJ Conference to Explore Cultures of Language and Identity

By Ellie Anderson
Contributing Writer

The Rohatyn Center for Global Affairs will be hosting its fifth Annual International Conference on March 9-11. The event, titled "From Scroll to Scrolling: Shifting Cultures of Language and Identity," will take place in the Robert A. Jones (RAJ) Conference Room through a series of six individual 90 minute sessions beginning at 4:30pm on Thursday.

17 speakers are scheduled to present, traveling from universities as nearby as Middlebury itself and as far as the University of Wroclaw in Poland.

Director of the Rohatyn Center Tamar Mayer is the lead organizer for the conference. Though each session differs, overall attendance has been high for all the years she has coordinated the conference, she said, even on Saturday mornings.

Mayer believes that this results in part from the thematic organization and number of lecturers, which produce a greater coherence of the topic, and the relevance of the theme to courses taught at Middlebury.

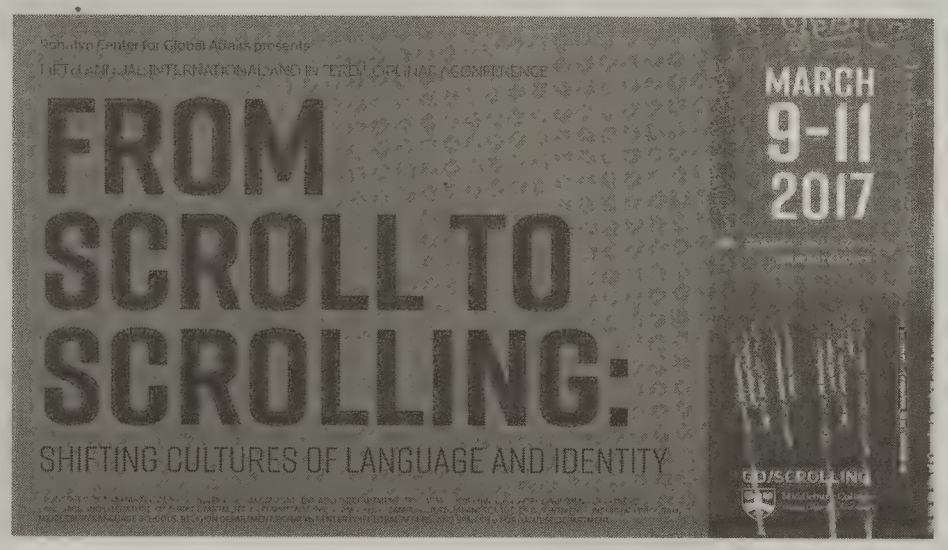
"[The conference] has this really exciting and intellectual buzz," she said.

This year's conference has already generated a great amount of interest. Mayer received an email from a faculty member in a Russian University hoping to attend, and she said that everyone she has spoken to about the conference has been quite eager.

"It has now gotten a life of its own," she said. "I'm very excited."

Mayer has led the organization of all five annual conferences. Though she and the Rohatyn Center's steering committee had originally generated a list of conference topics all the way through 2021, she said that the list is flexible.

The steering committee came up with this year's conference theme in April of last year, discarding the original idea of "The Child Migrant." They wanted to concentrate on something that had not been given much attention already, and they wanted to more centrally incorporate the humanities into the work of the Rohatyn Center.


Rohatyn Center for Global Affairs presents
FROM SCROLL TO SCROLLING:
SHIFTING CULTURES OF LANGUAGE AND IDENTITY
MARCH 9-11 2017

ROHATYN CENTER FOR GLOBAL AFFAIRS

The fifth Annual International Conference, hosted by the Rohatyn Center for Global Affairs, will take place from March 9-11.

"The Rohatyn Center's task is to enrich the intellectual life of the College on themes that are international in nature. To get enriched in the theme, in different aspects of the theme, is really to pause and to ask certain kinds of questions – hopefully new questions – to get educated about it."

TAMAR MAYER
ROBERT R. CHURCHILL PROFESSOR OF GEOSCIENCE
DIRECTOR, ROHATYN CENTER

As a professor of geography and a nationalism scholar, Mayer was curious about the relationship of language to national identity and how these two function in the face of inevitable cultural and political changes.

In particular, she was interested in languages that have become endangered as a result of such changes because, she said, "It's not just language — if the language is endangered so is the culture."

The two main sub-themes the conference will examine focus on the "the impact of the production and circulation of texts, over time and place, on practices of writing, reading and the transmission of knowledge," as well as "the way in which power imbalances affect language use, community and identity," according to Mayer.

She asked Associate Professor of Anthropology Marybeth Nevins and Kawashima Professor of Japanese Studies and Dean of the Language Schools Steve Snyder to work alongside her as organizers, based on their respective experience in sociolinguistics and translation.

About 45 to 50 people applied to present their work at the conference, and Mayer, Nevins and Snyder evaluated them based on the excellence of their 250 word extracts. They focused in particular on the geographical and historical focus of the scholars' works to ensure that both the classical and modern periods, as well as a geographical breadth, will be represented.

The goal was to assemble a group of scholars whose lectures would not only fall under the conference's theme of language and identity, but would generate intellectual conversation.

"The Rohatyn Center's task is to enrich the intellectual life of the College on themes that are global and international in nature," Mayer said. "To get enriched in the theme, in different aspects of the theme, is really to pause and to ask certain kinds of questions — hopefully new questions — to get educated about it."

The speakers have been organized into sessions based on their lecture topic, and each session carries a theme of its own. The full schedule can be found on the Rohatyn Center's website.

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How to Find Their Clit

Mike and I met at a party. Mike and I are now making out in his hall. Now we're making out in his bed. Now we're naked in his bed. Now he's bent over me and ... yes! He's doing it. He's actually going to go down on me. Score! ...or not. After two minutes I say, "I want you inside me." His head is out of there real quick. Then the condom's on and he's inside me and I'm lying there, enjoying the sex but also wondering, WHY ISN'T THERE A SINGLE MAN ON THIS CAMPUS WHO KNOWS HOW TO GO DOWN ON ME?!

Very few women orgasm from vaginal intercourse or from just penetration. Most people with vaginas need clitoral stimulation to get off – and this is where our dear partners fail us. Much of the blame can be placed on the general lack of sex education available to us when we're growing up, but the reality is that most people (straight men, I'm looking at you) don't know how to please us, especially when it comes to oral sex. And frankly, oral is what many of us need to reach orgasm.

I have talked to too many people on this campus whose partners just don't know what to do with mouths and vaginas. But I think I can help. Here's what I know:

First, some basic sex education. The clitoris is a small bump covered by a hood of skin at the top of the vaginal area. Typically, the labia come together just above the clitoral hood. Now, when you're searching for the clit, it doesn't have to be a lost-my-glasses on the floor type situation. It can be sexy. In oral, foreplay is everything. Kiss your partner all over, massaging and slowly heading toward the clit. Kiss the labia, spread them apart *gently* with your fingers and peer inside. The hood and clit look different on different people, but it should be the first landmark as you trace a line from their bellybutton.

From there, yeah, it's complicated. People are complicated. Different partners will like different pressures, patterns of movement, etc. They might be uncomfortable with some things. How will you navigate this situation? Let's return to the founding principle of this column: communication.

If you've made it down there and located your partner's clit, there is a lot of pressure and tension. Your partner is lying back, praying you'll know what's up. You're there, thinking the exact same. This moment tends to be dead silent. Your partner may want to say something, but might be worried about scaring you away or putting pressure on you or on themselves to perform. As the goer-downer, (assuming you have already gotten consent for this because we all get that at this point, right? Right?!) the best thing you can do is ask, "Do you like this?" Ask it any time you switch things up or try a new technique. Once you break the ice, it will be a lot easier for both partners to talk about what they're enjoying and what isn't quite working out.

Mechanically speaking, start touching the clit through the clitoral hood – it can be painful to have direct clitoral stimulation, especially if you aren't turned on yet. Try light pressure and then try more pressure. Ease into it. Try circles, side-to-side, up-down or even the alphabet. Once you've mastered the basics, try to think about rhythm – build your partner up and then release the tension a little, build it up, release, and so on. Once you want to make her come, find one motion that's working and stick to it, maybe increasing pressure and speed. (If your tongue gets tired, by all means take a break and use your fingers for a while.)

The number one way to do a good job and have a good time is to communicate with your partner. And for heaven's sake, educate yourself. There is great information online. Besides that, enthusiasm can go a long way.

Write to sexpantheratmidd@gmail.com with stories or questions. (Only I read these and it's completely anonymous!)

Xoxo, Sex Panther

Scholars Discuss Nuclear Weapons in North Korea

By Alex Newhouse
Features Editor

On Tuesday, Feb. 28, Jeffrey Lewis and Melissa Hanham gave a lecture at Middlebury College on their work using open-source intelligence to make conclusions about the North Korean nuclear weapons program.

Lewis and Hanham, researchers at the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies (CNS) at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies in Monterey, spend their time carefully studying satellite imagery, media, and geospatial data for clues to the enigmatic activities of the North Korean regime.

During this talk, they showed off some of their methods for determining missile capabilities, nuclear test strength and even photograph locations based on a single photograph.

Their lecture came shortly after the *New York Times* published a piece on their work, and the premise for the talk was to go into more depth on the subject matter covered in the article.

Specifically, Lewis and Hanham focused on the famous "disco ball" photograph published by the North Korean government in March 2016. In the photograph, North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un can be seen standing around a metal ball – claimed to be a miniaturized nuclear device – and in front of a large missile on a mobile transport.

In the past, such as during the Cold War, it would be nearly impossible for anyone but the governments of the United States or Soviet Union to do anything with such a photo, Lewis explained.

"If you talk to people, one of the questions they have is, 'How do you study that? Because it's secret,'" Lewis said.

He stated that the advent of digital photography, the internet and smartphones have made data that once would have actually been secret accessible to the general public.

"The way that I explain how we're able to do this is: Think about your [smart] phone," he said. "Your phone takes the picture, there is no developing it, it's digital, it encodes it with metadata that if you leave the metadata on, says where and when you took it; and then this device accesses the web and you can share that image with everyone in the world instantaneously. This opens up new ways of studying this particular problem."

Thus, when the "disco ball" image was released, Lewis, Hanham and CNS had a multitude of tools available to sleuth important information from it. One of the first steps they took was to determine whether or not the North Korean government had manipulated the photo after it had been taken.

"Sometimes they cheat, sometimes they do a little photoshopping, a little cloning, a little airbrushing, especially around Kim Jong-Un's apparently hideous ear that he's really afraid of," Hanham said.

"In this particular case, the very first thing we do is we contact our friend at Reuters who sends us photos directly from North Korea," Hanham continued. "So these are photos that have not been recycled through a photo system, they are raw photos as they come from North Korea. And we run it through a software ... and we looks for any kind of edits or alterations which may show that this has some sort of fakery in it. This photo was completely clean. This photo was offered as proof. This was supposed to be evidence."

> ***"Sometimes [the North Korean government] cheats, sometimes they do a little photoshopping, a little cloning, a little airbrushing, especially around Kim Jong-Un's apparently hideous ear that he's really afraid of."***
>
> JEFFREY LEWIS
> MIIS RESEARCHER

Because of the fact that North Korea had already provided pictures of the missile before, and Lewis and Hanham had been able to determine its dimensions, they were subsequently able to estimate the diameter, volume,and even weight of the device in the foreground based on its relative distance from the missile in the background. Discovering this, they were able to conclude that this device — if it is real and works, and it at least appears like it would — can fit on the top of a ballistic missile.

But their understanding of the program does not stop at this. Hanham and Lewis wanted to find out more about the patterns of North Korean nuclear testing, so they and other CNS researchers began building three-dimensional models of the terrain using satellite imagery and geospatial rendering technology.

They knew the general location and yield of the tests from seismic data, and then it was their task to match that data with the imagery to formulate a terrain model. This includes, for example, searching satellite photos for the telltale sign of testing activity.

"A nuclear test site will have support facilities, and then they'll have tunnels or 'adits,'" Hanham said. "Doesn't matter if you're in Russia, or if you're here, you always have these kinds of things. Then there's other features like, you may have spoil piles because they're tunneling out, you may have security fences."

NEW YORK TIMES

North Korean leaders examine the "disco ball" that is at the center of Lewis and Hanham's lecture.

"My favorite signature is nicely paved roads in very poor countries that dead-end in the mountains," Lewis added.

Pointing at a satellite image of the testing facilities, Lewis indicated a small, trapezoidal object on the side of one of the mountains. "[This] shows the bearing that the tunnel goes into the mountain," he said. "That's going to help us figure out where all the nuclear tests happen because countries tend to build straight tunnels for obvious reasons, and they branch off them."

By using these techniques, they discovered that the North Korean underground tests followed a surprisingly familiar pattern. In fact, the layout of the mines nearly perfectly mirrored the layout of American nuclear testing facilities, and Lewis and Hanham had found out that the North Koreans were utilizing declassified American testing information to build their own program.

Lewis and Hanham went on to explain that these examples highlighted just some of the tools that they use in their work. Sometimes, for instance, they will dive deeper into certain images, looking at photographic analysis to figure out where an image may have been photoshopped. Other times they will use satellite images taken at high frequencies to show the evolution of certain behaviors, such as Chinese enforcement of sanctions on North Korea.

Lewis and Hanham both stressed, however, that their work is not something far beyond the scope of the general public. Nor is it just limited to those who study political science.

"[These tools] equalize the playing field," Hanham said. "I'm from Canada, I have two two-year-olds, [and] I have no special skills other than a master's degree and a certificate in nonproliferation studies from the Middlebury Institute and a desire to do this, and an internet connection. That's really what it comes down to. It used to be that only the Soviet Union and the United States could practice this tradecraft. And now, you can too. Everyone in this room can do this too. We're going to show you some of the ways we do it."

> ***"If you study international relations, that's great. If you're sitting here and thinking, 'But I don't study international relations, I do other stuff,' we really want you. "***
>
> JEFFREY LEWIS
> MIIS RESEARCHER

"Let me put in a pitch for the students," Lewis said. "If you study international relations, that's great. If you're sitting here and thinking, 'But I don't study international relations, I do other stuff,' we really want you. We have a lot of great students who study international relations and [political science], and that's wonderful. But we also need people who can do all the technical things, and it's only when we have a diverse community of expertise that I think we can really do this kind of work."

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ARTS & SCIENCES

The Middlebury Campus

Kannapolis Composes Picture of the Past

By Sarah Boyle
Contributing Writer

On Mar. 4, the Mahaney Center of the Arts showcased "Kannapolis: A Moving Portrait," a performance art piece combining historical home videos and lively folk music to depict life in North Carolina during the Great Depression. This project is the brainchild of acclaimed composer and performer Jenny Scheinman, who created this work to "remind us of our resilience, and of our immense capacity for joy even in the hardest of times."

From the years 1936 to 1942, filmmaker H. Lee Waters travelled throughout the mill town of Kannapolis, N.C., recording the daily lives of average people during the Depression. Waters was inspired to document these ordinary people's experiences because he felt that during that time of financial hardship, Americans were not willing to spend money on entertainment, but "would love to see themselves on the screen like movie stars." Over this period of six years, Waters created 118 films that encapsulated the many ways of life in Kannapolis.

Scheinman was approached by Aaron Greenwald, executive director of Duke Performances, to create a body of work based off of Waters' footage. After viewing one of the films, Scheinman was enamored by its realism and compared it to "seeing ghosts in perfect focus."

From there, Scheinman wrote and compiled songs to accompany the films, mostly fiddle tunes that were inspired by the music players featured in the footage. Then with the assistance of director Finn Taylor she consolidated her song list to include pieces that represented the main themes of the work: "labor, community, dancing, film, industry and childhood."

The result is a diverse portrait of the citizens of Kannapolis during this brief window of time. The live music and footage combine to recreate the past, allowing viewers to feel like they are walking around the town square, dancing in the streets or working at the looms. The townspeople's openness, happiness and intimacy with the camera is surprising given the time, but demonstrates that they were not all that different from us today. Additionally, it sheds light on their ability to enjoy the simple moments when life is extremely challenging.

OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

Jenny Scheinman wrote music and performed music to accompany the footage.

Focusing on the mill town of Kannapolis gives viewers a glimpse into a lost world. At the time of filming Kannapolis was the "City of Looms" where Cannon Mills, the largest employer of textile laborers in the country, operated its factory. Sadly, all workers lost their jobs in 2003 and the mill was destroyed in 2006. Looking back on this time of American production allows for viewers to revel in the changes in our society since then.

The film's editors conscientiously tried to integrate the footage so that all different groups were represented throughout the work. When watching the original films the segregation of the subjects are obvious. The editors strode to unify the racial divide of the time by displaying shots in both black and white groups right after one another. Many of the shots in the different racial communities mirror each other, contributing to the idea of a unifying depiction of all citizens. In doing this, Scheinman hopes that the film is "more available to us today" and allows it to resonate within our society.

In this time of social and political upheaval, it is important to look to the past in order to brace the future. All viewers can take away from "Kannapolis: A Moving Portrait" that humans have dealt with hardship in the past and still have found ways to keep dancing. The inspired music and honest footage of this performance allows for this lively town to be preserved in time so we can learn from and appreciate their way of life.

OGFT BLOGSPOT

Footage of life in Kannapolis, North Carolina during the Great Depression was the subject of Kannapolis: A Moving Portrait.

THE REEL CRITIC

LA LA LAND

By Will DiGravio
News Editor

Written and directed by Damien Chazelle, "La La Land" tells the story of Sebastian Wilder (Ryan Gosling) and Mia Dolan (Emma Stone), two struggling artists who fall in love after they repeatedly run into each other on the streets, in the restaurants, and parties of the Los Angeles social scene.

Wilder is a jazz musician who rejects the modernization of the genre and dreams of opening a nightclub where only classical jazz is played. As tribute to Charlie Parker, he wants to name his club "Chicken on a Stick." Dolan is an actress who, in between unsuccessful auditions, works as a barista on the Warner Brothers lot. Like Sebastian, Mia is an old soul, whose love of film and want to be an actress came from watching classic cinema with her aunt.

At its core, the film is a fantasy. The two are bonded by their desire for a Los Angeles that no longer exists. Chazelle's story takes place in a kind of dreamworld, where Mia and Sebastian are able to pursue their desires in a romanticized Los Angeles.

The film will be classified as a musical, but it really isn't. Truly, it is a cross between a melodrama and romantic comedy, with a few song and dance numbers that add a dash of color and play into the fantasy of it all. Though the film's musical numbers are banal, they do not detract from the film.

Stone and Gosling are not the multi-faceted performers — Gene Kelly, Fred Astaire, Ginger Rogers — that they try to emulate. Neither excel at dancing, thus making for weak and boring choreography. And they are not particularly good singers either, though Stone is by far the better of the two. Gosling should never sing again. Thankfully, the musical numbers are few and far between, and the film is saved by the pair's superb acting.

Like the actors themselves, Mia and Sebastian bring out the best in one another. Mia accompanies Sebastian to gigs, where she dances in the crowd and encourages him to pursue his passion and be a better performer. Sebastian helps Mia realize her talent as a playwright, urging her to write, produce and star in a one-woman show. While neither of them is making any money, they are pursuing their passions and, for the first time, are truly happy. They are in "la la land."

As their relationship grows more serious, Mia's mother calls her to inquire about Sebastian's career. Mia tells her that he wants to open his own jazz club and will "figure it out." After he overhears their conversation, Sebastian comes to realization that he must find a more stable job if he wants to have a real life and relationship with Mia. He reaches out to an old classmate Keith (John Legend), who offers him a job as a keyboardist in his jazz band. Keith's band is a blend of jazz, pop and funk — the new wave of jazz that Sebastian detests. Even though he hates the music, Sebastian accepts the job in order to earn a steady income.

To the film's detriment, Chazelle hardly tells Mia's story. As Sebastian goes on tour with his band, Mia is working on her show, and while she is more charming and interesting, her creative process is not explored. The film is Sebastian's and Mia is a passive character.

Sebastian's decision to join Keith's band drives him and Mia apart. One night, when he is home from the tour, Mia questions his decision to abandon his dream. A fight ensues, and Sebastian accuses Mia of no longer loving him now that he is successful and she isn't. In that moment, their relationship comes to a halt; they leave la la land and return to reality. They come to the realization that they cannot pursue their careers and be together, no matter how much they love one another.

A typical movie will portray reality and deliver a fantasy, where the man/woman gets the job and the girl/guy. Chazelle rejects this norm, and uses the fantasy of "La La Land" to showcase an unfortunate reality: the irreconcilable nature of love and ambition. In the end, both Mia and Sebastian are forced to choose between the two.

The final scenes of "La La Land" comprise one of the most original endings that I have seen in a long time. In a beautiful and breathtaking sequence, Chazelle provides the audience with a glimpse into what could have been had Mia and Sebastian chosen a different path.

The sequence challenges our preconceived notions of love. Is it a roadblock or bridge on the road to success? What matters more: one's romance or career? "La La Land" forces us to contemplate these questions and the very nature of love; and it does so in a charming and intellectually honest way.

DON'T MISS THIS

"Type/Caste"

A queer, black actor dreams of a dazzling career on the American stage but first he'll have to leap over obstacles placed by an industry that isn't always welcoming to applicants who are neither white nor straight. Based on Rotimi Agbabiaka's real life experience as a professional actor.

3/9, THURSDAY, 8 P.M., WILSON HALL

Solomon Northup's Middlebury Connection

Professors of History Bill Hart and Amy Morsman discuss their research projects on the Northup family and their dramatic place in the story of race, slavery and freedom in antebellum America. Henry Kinsman Solomon Northup, whose memoir "12 Years a Slave" provided the narrative basis for the eponymous film.

3/10, FRIDAY, 12:15 P.M., MUSEUM OF ART

"For Colored Girls"

Passionate and fearless, "For Colored Girls," written by Ntozake Shange, reveals what it means to be of color and female in the twenty first century. The choreopoem is performed by a cast of seven nameless women identified by color, and tells their stories of coming of age and sisterhood as Black women.

3/9-11, THURS.-SAT., 7 P.M.,10 FRI., HEPBURN ZOO

Visiting Scholar Talks Artificial Intelligence

By Sabina Haque
Contributing Writer

On Tuesday, Feb. 28, students and faculty in the computer science department gathered to hear Barbara J. Grosz, Higgins Professor of Natural Sciences at Harvard University, speak in McCardell Bicentennial Hall. Her talk was entitled, "From the Turing Test to Smart Partners: 'Is Your System Smart Enough to Work with Us?'"

Grosz was this year's Phi Beta Kappa Visiting Scholar from the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences at Harvard University, and she gave two talks at the College last week: a general lecture for the public on Monday afternoon, and a more technical presentation of her research on Tuesday. In addition, Grosz visited several classes in the computer science department and had lunch with the Middlebury College Women in Computer Science (wiCs++) Club.

> ***"Could we build a computer team member that would behave over the long term in such a way that people on the team will not notice it's not human or think it's stupid?"***
>
> BARBARA GROSZ
> HIGGINS PROFESSOR OF NATURAL SCIENCES AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Having had ample opportunity to engage with students and faculty during her time at the College, Grosz began Tuesday's talk with familiarity toward those in the room who attended her previous lecture. She then delved into a discussion of Alan Turing's "Mind" paper, in which he presents the Turing test for computers. Written at a time when powerful machines had just emerged out of the Second World War, Turing's paper poses the philosophical question: "Can these machines think?" In asking this question, Turing became the father of artificial intelligence and theoretical computer science. Grosz questioned the notion of computers being able to "think," and discussed her research on artificial intelligence in the context of Turing's framing.

"What questions would Turing ask now?" Grosz asked the audience, commenting on how the world has changed since the 1940s.

Grosz's research revolves around the central question: "Could we build a computer team member that would behave over the long term in such a way that people on the team will not notice it's not human or think it's stupid?"

In asking this question, Grosz seeks to direct her research efforts to develop a Turing test modified for the modern computing age, in which people work with many individuals and systems all over the world. She said that humans should build computers and machines that augment human intelligence, not replace it. In doing so, she asserts that this strategy promotes fluent teamwork between humans and computers, which supplies us with a cohort of compelling scientific and technological challenges to tackle.

> ***[Grosz] said that humans should build computers and machines that augment human intelligence, not replace it. In doing so, she asserts that this strategy promotes fluent teamwork between humans and computers, which supplies us with a cohort of compelling scientific and technological challenges to tackle.***

Grosz interjected the lucid conceptual illustration of her research with stories about her past academic work. A particularly memorable anecdote involved a lunch conversation with Noam Chomsky and the other graduate students in her lab. When she explained her PhD research, Chomsky said that her subject, "sounds nice, but is impossible."

"I went home and did something impossible," Grosz said, finishing the anecdote with a smile.

Grosz then delved into a description of three applications of her SharedPlans Theory, an abstract theoretical model of the teamwork-oriented understanding of the Turing test she discussed earlier. She started with using the theory as a design guide, in which her team used a computer in a classroom to monitor students and "diagnose" whether or not they struggled with the material. From the data collected by the computer, a new type of plan recognition could emerge. With regards to system specification, a computer could also be used to develop probability recipe trees, where it would assign probability to various outcomes of an event and weigh the cost of interrupting the user against the utility of doing so. For example, Route A might be more favorable than Route B under normal circumstances, but a last-minute traffic jam on Route A may change the user's course of action. Such probability recipe trees can evolve over time based on new information, providing an interesting application of teamwork.

Finally, Grosz discussed the use of the SharedPlans Theory from an analytic lens in health care. When multiple doctors are involved in treating an individual, computers could be used to develop an effective plan for complex care. The teamwork defined in this instance involves loosely-coupled challenges, which make sharing information between various groups while avoiding overload difficult.

Throughout the hour, Grosz interjected career lessons such as, "Don't listen to the naysayers until you've really tried." Grosz ended her talk by sharing more wisdom with her audience about the nature of research.

"Formulating the problem is the heart of research," Grosz said. "It's very different from just solving problems."

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Barbara Grosz was this year's Phi Beta Kappa Visiting Scholar.

THE REEL CRITIC

By John Gosselin
Contributing Columnist

AKIRA

Akira (1988) has an outstanding reputation today in Japan and America as one of the finest examples of a big-budget action-adventure anime feature. Epic in scale, the entirely hand-drawn city of Neo-Tokyo comes to life in a massive story featuring dozens of characters, all with unique motivations. Based off the best-selling manga comic of the same name, Akira did a great deal to introduce the West to anime and to establish a standard of animation quality which has not been surpassed since its release. If you are looking to start watching anime, this film is as good a place to start as any, especially if you would like to see adult themes in animation.

One of the best parts of this movie is that it adheres closely to a distinct animation style which creates a tension between the realistic look of the characters and the patently unrealistic events unfolding onscreen.

For example, the opening scene, a fantastically orchestrated bike race, includes some of the smoothest, most accurate animation I have seen, but the chase itself does not seem to make much linear sense. The bikers start, cued by the outstanding soundtrack, but then the film cuts to images of the city instead of focusing on the bikers. These shots all look as real as possible, with incredible attention to detail — especially the way the bikes' lights interact with the objects around them. After a few quick shots of the bikers racing through the city, they suddenly leave it, creating more discontinuity. Scenes in this film tend to work in this fashion, painting as large a landscape as possible with discontinuous cuts.

Beyond the story, which can at times become confusing, the movie creates a unique and unsurpassed atmosphere of cyberpunk-infused science fiction sprinkled with unparalleled action sequences. It is difficult to describe the exhilaration of watching the bikers in the first scene, realizing what mysterious government experiments have wrought or witnessing the nervous excitement of the finale.

By paying attention to the detailed animation and the flawlessly assimilated soundtrack, it is easy to lose yourself in the world of the film without attaching yourself to the characters or the story, but to the events happening on the screen. *Akira* involves its audience from multiple perspectives: sometimes you see only what the protagonist sees, but other times, you see the entire city from an omniscient perspective. The variety and frequency of these shifts in perspective make the movie all the more thrilling.

Despite the feelings it bestows on the average audience member, *Akira* has some difficulties stemming mostly from the process of adapting the manga comic. Characters for which dozens of pages were devoted in the manga have mere cameos in the film, and the attempts to tell the full story do not always work well. The potential for confusion, given the compressed plot and many characters, is vast, so do not to worry about confusion. Those seemingly extraneous characters or digressions from the main story help to build the story world, make it seem living and energetic. Despite its flaws, this film remains one of the best introductions to anime available and an excellent watch in general.

A DVD copy of this film can be found in the library.

PERFORMING ARTS SPOTLIGHT: THE DORIC STRING QUARTET

By Qian Li (Audrey)
Contributing Columnist

Lauded by *The Strad* magazine as "inventive, engaging, moving and beautiful" and *The New York Times* as "a superb ensemble, intelligent, technically brilliant, wonderfully balanced," the Doric String Quartet is a rising star on the chamber music scene, taking its place among the finest quartets of its generation.

The Doric String Quartet has collaborated with prestigious artists, many of them having also appeared on the Middlebury College Performing Arts Series. The ensemble has performed in venues around the world, including leading concert halls like Amsterdam Concertgebouw, Vienna Konzerthaus and Berlin Konzerthaus.

And now, they are here.

On Thursday, March 9, this U.K.-based ensemble will come to the College for the first time with a free concert. The audience will be treated to a program including Mendelssohn's Quartet in E-flat Major, the Lyric Suite by Berg and Schubert's dramatic G Major quartet.

Formed in 1998 at Pro Corda, a national school for young chamber music players in Britain, the Doric String Quartet later studied in the Paris-based Pro-Quartet Professional Training Program and at the Music Academy in Basel. In 2015, the quartet was appointed Teaching Quartet in Association at the Royal Academy of Music in London.

Over the decades, the Doric String Quartet has firmly established itself as the leading British string quartet of its generation, receiving enthusiastic responses from audiences and critics across the globe. Selected for representation by Young Classical Artists Trust in 2006, the quartet went on to win several major awards including first prize at the 2008 Osaka International Chamber Music Competition in Japan, second prize at the Premio Paolo Borciani International String Quartet Competition in Italy and the ensemble prize at the Festspiele Mecklenburg-Vorpommern in Germany.

According to *The Financial Times*, "Their performance was unusually introspective, but always alive. The first violin, Alex Redington, has a distinctive sweetness to his tone, allowing the darker colours of viola and cello a potent influence in the mix of sound, and sometimes he leads his three colleagues into the softest, most withdrawn playing."

The quartet made a triumphant American debut in 2010 with recitals at the Frick Museum in New York and Library of Congress in Washington.

"Doric String Quartet keeps genre young and vital," *The Washington Post* says. "The group projects a sweet, finely blended tone, faultlessly deployed in Haydn's slow movement, where first violinist Alex Redington found subtle colors to embellish a wistful little melody differently each time it returned."

This free concert is made possible with generous support from the Sunderman Family Concert Endowment Fund, in memory of Dr. F. William Sunderman Jr. and Dr. Carolyn Reynolds Sunderman.

The concert will take place on Thursday, March 9, at 7:30 p.m. in the Mahaney Center for the Arts's Robison Hall. Admission is free; no tickets are required. Audience members are advised to arrive early, as seating is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

GEORGE GARINER

The Doric String Quartet will perform in a free concert at the Mahaney Center for the Arts on Thursday, March 9.

BOOKING IT

THE NECESSARY DEATH OF LEWIS WINTER

By Gabrielle Owens
Senior Columnist

Malcolm Mackay's novel *The Necessary Death of Lewis Winter* pulls the noir genre into 21st century, delving into a world of organized crime, hit men and drug deals combatted by surveillance cameras, smartphones and DNA tests. It is an intelligent page-turner, exploring the ugly underbelly of Glasgow's crime world without reservation or melodrama. From corrupt cops to a femme fatale, Mackay takes stock characters and gives them his own individual twist. He also flips the script in the general structure of a crime novel: there is no mystery, no hunt for a killer, and therefore no major reveal at the end. Instead, Mackay introduces us to the murderer at the very beginning of the story. He is our protagonist, a young career hit man named Calum MacLean.

The plot is relatively simple: a crime syndicate known as the Jamieson organization hires Calum MacLean to kill Lewis Winter, a small-time drug dealer who has been encroaching on their territory. Winter is not truly a threat himself, but just a proxy, his death a message to people attempting to challenge the Jamieson organization. The novel follows the crime from beginning to end, starting with Calum accepting the job despite his reservations about becoming too closely tied to one organization, and then following the preparation, the lead-up from Winter's own perspective, the execution itself. We then watch the fallout, from the police investigation to Winter's girlfriend's effort to turn the situation to her advantage to the ripples the hit sends through the crime world. As this is the first book in a trilogy, it leaves some threads hanging at the end, but it stands perfectly well on its own. The story it tells feels complete.

If the story sells the book, the writing style occasionally leaves something to be desired. The entire book is in short, choppy sentences. Mackay never lingers on a description, and his language is never the least bit flowery. He is abrupt to the point that it sometimes feels his sentences have been hacked off with an absolute word limit. While this undoubtedly helps set the mood and tone of the novel, as well as giving personality to the omniscient narrator, it is so unvaried as to become tiresome. It is less noticeable as you get further into the novel and get used to it, but the first couple chapters are slightly aggravating to sit through. The narrator also uses a second person, direct address to the reader, which sometimes slips you into the novel as a voyeur or an accomplice to the crime, but more often feels awkward and out of place. Still, elements of Mackay's style are excellent for the story he is telling, even if they could use some refining.

Mackay has a particular ability to set your heart pounding with scenes of cold-hearted premeditation in a way you would usually associate with car chases or fight sequences. There is very little action in this story. Besides the murder of Winter himself, there is really only one other moment of violence — and yet this book reads lightning fast. It catches your attention and holds it until the end. Calum's planning is intriguing and fantastically detailed, showing off his competence and no-nonsense approach to his work. The murder in this novel has no passion; it is all about technique. As the tag line on the back of the book reads, "It's easy to kill a man. It's hard to kill a man well." It is Calum's diligence to the latter task that engages us and makes us root for him.

While many of the characters owe their basic outline to crime and noir literature archetypes, all of them are fully rounded individuals. Winter's girlfriend, Zara, is a particularly good example. She is the femme fatale of the piece: an opportunistic woman caught up in a crime, unafraid and even experienced in using her sexuality to get what she wants, more concerned with making money out of the situation than with a moral code. However, we are shown many of the scenes from her point of view, and given insight into her thoughts and plans. This shifts her from the clichéd mysterious and dangerous woman into an actual human character with clear motivations, hopes and plans that sometimes work and sometimes fail. This is true of all the major players in the novel. None of them are particularly set above the rest, either. Most of the characters are criminals, and even those that are not get their hands dirty to some degree, but none of the criminals are portrayed as incomprehensible monsters, either. These are flawed and layered people trying to survive a dangerous world.

The Necessary Death of Lewis Winter is not without flaws, but as a thriller crime novel, it is excellent. If you are looking for a quick read that will pull you into an exciting story set in a cynically realistic world, this is a good book to pick up. Find it at the library at go/bookingit.

MIDD MOUTH: FEATURING WENTAO ZHAI

By Matthew Blake
Senior Columnist

This week's MiddMouth poet is Wentao Zhai '17. Wentao is a classics major. He grew up in Beijing, China and moved to Zimbabwe in 2009, where he completed high school. Here are some of his thoughts on poetry and translation.

Matthew Blake (MB): How would you describe your relationship to poetry?

Wentao Zhai (WZ): The Chinese poetic tradition has been something very dear to me since my childhood. After having learned English, I wondered if it's possible to deliver, or transfer, what I feel as a native speaker as I read these poems to an English-speaking audience. Since the English and Chinese languages are so dissimilar, this is of course very challenging. Apart from the language barrier, differences in their poetic tradition also makes translation difficult. It is often the case that a poem that has a beautiful flow in Chinese just does not "work" in English – which makes the cases where they do work all the more valuable, in my opinion.

ANONYMOUS

Wentao Zhai '17 is this week's featured poet.

MB: How would you describe your creative process?

WZ: It's hard to describe my creative process. Often it's just a line, or turn of phrase, or even a word, that pops into my head, and I just start working from there. Personally I prefer translating the more flexible genre of "ci," or song lyrics, as opposed to the denser, more rigid genre of "shi," or formal poetry. In general these short poems feature universal elements such as the passage of time, lost love and motifs taken from nature; they also rely less on allusions and learned references to other texts. Below is a poem about a nostalgic dream. I divided each line into "word clusters," in order to convey the discrete structure of these lines in Chinese.

蘇幕遮
Originally by 周邦彥
Translation by Wentao Zhai

燎沉、消溽暑。鳥雀呼晴、侵曉窺檐語。葉上初陽幹宿雨。水面清圓、一一風荷舉。
故鄉遙、何日去。家住吳門、久作長安旅。五月漁郎相憶否。小楫輕舟、夢入芙蓉浦。

Subtle incense smolders away
summer damp. Dawn, intruder,
bears witness to rooftop talks.
Birds of song call for the sun.
Night rain drying in newborn rays.
On lotus leaves, clear and circular,
above the waters, one by one,
petals arise — in rising wind.

Far, far is home. When may I go?
Wanderer under walls of Chang'an,
returning to creek-side gates...
O fisher-boy in month of May!
Do you not remember still?
Little oars, a nimble boat,
through shallows full of water lilies,
slowly, slowly — into a dream.

GLOBAL READER

THE ROHATYN CENTER'S STUDENT JOURNAL

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

The Global Reader hopes to advance an interdisciplinary understanding of pressing and historical global issues. Essays considered will explore the world's most urgent or historical topics of global interest, such as: migration and trafficking, cybersecurity, millennium development goals, refugees and human rights, politics of freshwater, youth unemployment, food insecurity, global religions, and more. Please note this list is merely suggestive and not exhaustive.

- Short essays, policy articles, and research papers
- 100-150 word abstract required in submission
- 5-15 pages with one inch margins, Times New Roman, 12 point-size font, double spaced in Microsoft Word
- Must be original work from in or out of the classroom, with quotations and citations properly acknowledged
- Create separate page at end of your paper to include your name, graduation year, and email to ensure blind-review evaluation
- All submissions must be in English
- Submit to **RSAB@MIDDLEBURY.EDU** by Monday, March 20, 2017

DEADLINE MARCH 20 2017

FOR MORE INFORMATION, GO/GR

Women's Hockey to Host Norwich in NCAA Quarters

Continued from page 24

"With six seconds left in the game I already had my gloves off and was unbuckling my helmet — I was too ready to celebrate."

Laven, reflecting as a senior, said that winning the NESCAC, especially back to back, is extremely important to her and that it meant a great deal moving forward.

"It is really special to win the NESCAC championship as a senior and winning was evidence of how far we have come as a team from the beginning of the season. But as excited as we are, we are still very hungry and focused to go as far as we can in NCAA play, one game at a time."

Several others on the team reflected on the weekend and the significance of their accomplishment.

"This week was very special. The NESCAC is such a tough league and we knew going into the weekend that any of the remaining teams could win the whole thing," said Elizabeth Wulf '18, who has been instrumental to the team's success as a power-play killer. "With that said, we knew we controlled our own destiny. It was the first time we played well in back to back games and we built off the atmosphere and the crowd's energy."

Hlinka built on Wulf's comments about the energy and noise that echoed around Kenyon's walls.

"The atmosphere and energy were so important. From the crowd to the energy people were bringing in the locker room and on the bench, it was simply awesome," said Hlinka.

The Panthers have now won their last seven games. Young and Winslow are simply on fire, Sheline will continue her rookie of the year season and captains Laven and Watson will do all they can do lead their team to another NCAA Division III title.

MEN'S LACROSSE OVERCOMES COLD AND INJURY TO BEAT CONN. COLLEGE

By Colby Morris
Senior Writer

On Saturday, March 4, the Middlebury Men's Lacrosse team bussed it down to New London, Ct., to settle in before their Sunday game against Connecticut College. Originally scheduled for Saturday, but moved due to frighteningly cold weather, the game was not only the season opener, but also a crucial NESCAC conference game against an opponent with an unusual style. Conn. College's face-off centered play is different than most teams in the conference, and without their starting midfielder, John Jackson '18, Middlebury was at a disadvantage.

That disadvantage didn't show on Sunday, however, as the southern trip prompted warmer weather and plenty of goals for the Panthers as the last three quarters decided the final score at 8-6 in favor of Middlebury. Leaders for Middlebury were senior captain and goalkeeper, Will Ernst '17, who made seven saves on ten total shots to effectively shut down the Camels' attack and first year player Will Perry '20 came in for the second half at goalkeeper, making two saves of his own on five attempts. Lastly, Parker Lawlor's '18 performance was also encouraging heading into the spring season as his three goals on five shots led the way to the win for Middlebury. Lawlor added one assist and only had one shot not on goal, matching his season total from last spring. Jake Schneider '17 put up great numbers too as his two goals not only made up a significant portion of the Panthers' points, but were also the first two points of the senior's career.

Wes Quinzani '18, Jack Gould '19 and Henry Riehl '18 added one goal each to round out the eight total goals for Middlebury. Gould assisted Lawlor on what turned out to be the decisive goal as the game was tied at six all with just over eight minutes remaining before the Panthers took a 7-6 lead, putting Middlebury up for good. Gould was positioned at the top wing and Lawlor was able to go under his defender while catching the pass from Gould on the run, dunking it into the goal.

A.J. Kucinski '20, Clayton Read '20, Ben Snow '20, Will Perry '20, and Jake Madnick '20 all saw their first collegiate game action in the win as the Panthers boast 13 first year players on their roster of 45. Madnick had a solid day on the field as he was immediately thrust into a key role as the face off player, winning five of them. He won 5/10 face offs in the second half against Conn. College's Ben Parens, the best in the country at his position. Middlebury took 47 shots compared to Conn's 28, showing their domination on offense and with ball control — they simply managed to hold onto the ball better than the Camels. Midd had 14 turnovers compared to the home squad's 16, and after going down 2-1 in the first quarter, won each of the remaining three.

"We felt good about beating a NESCAC opponent in our first game as there are no easy conference contests," said Chris Bradbury '19 who saw time on Sunday in man down situation.

After an out-of-conference match up with Endicott on Tuesday, March 7, the Panthers will be back in action in Medford, Mass., this Saturday, March 11, against Tufts.

Squash Caps Campaign at Individuals

By Will Case
Sports Editor

Last weekend, March 3-5, four members of the men's squash team and three from the women's team headed to Hanover, N.H., to take part in the College Squash Association Individual Championships. The event marked the official end of the 2016-17 collegiate squash campaign.

On the men's side, senior captain and the team's no. one Wyatt French '17 played in the final two matches of his competitive squash career. French split his two matches, beating Williams sophomore no. two John Fitzgerald in straight sets (11-6, 11-8, 12-10) and falling to St. Lawrence's Belal Nawar in a closely contested three-set match (11-9, 11-7, 11-7).

Along with French, the Panthers' men's side sent three first-years to the tournament – no. two Jacob Ellen '20, no. four Will Cembalest '20 and no. five Jack Kagan '20. Kagan won one of his three matches, while Cembalest and Ellen dropped both of their two matches.

Although Cembalest and Ellen did not win their matches, both first-years had opportunities to play high quality competition to send them into the offseason.

Cembalest had the opportunity to face the Navy no. one, Jack Herold, and Ellen had the opportunity to get on the court with Rochester's Matt Toth and Conn. College's senior no. one Matt Lillie.

In his opening match, Kagan played Trinity's Afeeq Ismail, with whom French matched up with at last year's individual championships. After dropping the first game 11-3, Kagan hung with Ismail in the second and third games before falling 11-6 and 11-7.

In the consolation quarterfinals Kagan defeated Wesleyans David Sneed in four sets (9-11, 11-5, 11-7, 11-7) and played Navy's no. two, Senen Ubina, very closely in the consolation semifinals, even taking a set off of Ubina in a four-set match (8-11, 11-6, 11-3, 11-5).

"I was really happy to come out with the win against the Wesleyan no. two," Kagan said after a successful weekend to wrap of his first-year season. "I went in confident but he gave me a really tough match. I learned a lot from that one because it was a match I knew I could win, but I had to do the right things in order to come out on top."

Kagan had to adjust on the fly after he dropped the first set.

"I had to figure out some things with my game in the process in order to win," said Kagan. "I tend to learn a lot from these types of matches and found this one particularly fun and constructive."

Kagan said that part of the adjustments he made were due to differences between the Dartmouth and Middlebury courts.

"I tried out some new shots, refined my drops and lobs, and tried to familiarize myself with how I was going to hit the shots I wanted to on the Dartmouth courts, which are very different from ours," said Kagan. "I feel like I played some of my best squash this weekend, so I was happy that showed a little bit against the Navy no. two."

Kagan's had said that he kept a winning mindset going into the match with Herold, which was bolstered by Kagan's first set victory.

"I went in knowing I could win but after I won the first game Herold definitely quit hitting lobs and starting attacking with kills and drops, which was the right move," said Kagan. "The way he changed his game plan, shortening the rallies and hitting harder, attacked my game plan perfectly. I couldn't adjust."

Although they went 1-6, the individual championships were invaluable for the first-years. If nothing else, it brought them opportunities to collectively play seven extra matches that they would not have had the chance to play otherwise.

The first-year success theme also carried over on the women's side, as Annie Glassie '20 even managed to take back some hardware for her win in the consolation bracket of her draw. Due to a scheduling anomaly Glassie actually got a pair of byes through the consolation quarter- and semifinals of her draw. Glassie split her two matches, dropping the first to Drexel's no. one Ryan Morgan and winning her second against Dartmouth's Julia Potter.

The Panthers' no. one, sophomore Bea Kuijpers '19, also had a successful weekend split to wrap up the season. She easily defeated the Bates no. three, Vicky Arjoon, in straight sets and then played the Princeton no. four and lost in a tightly contested three set match. Fellow sophomore and Panthers' no. three Alexa Comai '19 owned what was probably the most under-the-radar weekend. Despite losing both of her matches, Comai took a game off the Dartmouth no. one and almost took two sets off of the George Washington no. two.

"Because I was playing such good players my strategy was to be patient and consistent in trying to let my opponent make the error," said Comai. "Additionally, I wanted to try to be super aggressive on the T and volley as much as possible."

Like Kagan and her other teammates who competed last weekend, Comai saw it as a chance to test herself against some of the best players in the collegiate ranks.

"I think playing such good players was a really good learning experience and I felt really lucky to have the opportunity to play" at the individual championships, said Comai. "I was also lucky to have [Head Coach] Mark [Lewis] there who was hugely helpful throughout the match."

The weekend provided an excellent jumping-off point for the squash program heading into an offseason in which the men's team graduates three players from the starting nine and the women's graduates only one.

BY THE NUMB3RS

18 *Points for Matt Folger '20 against Lycoming, a career high for the first-year forward.*

9 *Number of different players who scored goals for the women's lacrosse team against Conn College.*

36 *Total points on the season for Jessica Young '18 after two goals and two assists this weekend, tops in the NESCAC.*

3,408 *Maddie Pronovost '17's highest pentathlon score this season heading into NCAA DIII Championships, best in the nation in 2017.*

6 *The number of chili categories the judges consider at chili fest. They are: veggie, Beef, Chicken, Game, Kitchen Sink and Pork. Yes, we wonder what's in kitchen sink too.*

THE MIDDLEBURY GREAT 8 EIGHT

RANKING TEAM
THE ROBERT REPORT

1 WOMEN'S HOCKEY
A second-straight NESCAC championship was the only thing that could unseat the men's basketball team from the top spot. You rock, ladies.

2 MEN'S BASKETBALL
You know that Middlebury athletics had a good week when winning your first and second-round NCAA tourney games only gets you the second spot.

3 WOMEN'S LAX
Did you forget that they're still no. one in the nation after last year's NCAA DIII title? Conn. College probably remembered somewhere in the second half of their 15-point L at the Panthers' hands.

4 MEN'S LAX
Opened the season with a big conference win over the Camels behind Parker Lawlor '18's three goals.

5 MEN AND WOMEN'S SQUASH
Great end-of-season individual efforts from a number of athletes at the College Squash Association Individual Championships.

6 INDOOR TRACK & FIELD
After a quiet week in which only a handful of athletes competed at the Tufts Last Chance Meet, the Panthers will look to make some noise at the NCAA DIII Indoor Championships at North Central College in Illinois.

7 MIDDLEBURY SPORTS FANS
A NESCAC championship every weekend, thrilling playoff matchups on the horizon for men's basketball and women's hockey... It's a great day to be a Panther.

8 SEATING CAPACITY IN PEPIN GYM
If we don't let in the opposing fans in, then all the students who missed out on tickets can take their seats.

Men's Basketball Looks to Defend Home Court in Sweet 16

Continued from page 24

each hit a three and the Panthers were up 54-42. Farmingdale stayed with it behind a clinical performance by forward George Riefenstahl, who drew fouls and scored at will in the paint.

Farmingdale brought the game within 4 points, 75-71, but a basket from Daly and then consistent free-throw shooting from Majors and St. Amour helped Middlebury close out the contest.

St. Amour had a relatively inefficient game shooting, as he scored 18 points on 5-18 shooting, although he did record six assists and five steals.

On Saturday evening, the Panthers dominated Lycoming 95-76 behind a resurgent St. Amour. The NESCAC Player of the Year scored 30 points on 55 percent shooting to set an almost 30-year-old school record for points in a season (641) previously held by John Humphrey '88. St. Amour also claimed the school record for career three-pointers (246).

Middlebury started strong, taking a 13-8 lead behind an and-one from St. Amour, who took contact on the right baseline and before flicking the ball in an awkward 8-foot hook shot into the hoop.

With the score knotted 19-19, Bryan Jones '17 pushed the ball on the fast break and swung it to Folger, who cut straight down the lane for the slam over Lycoming forward Chris Wallace. That sparked pandemonium in the overflowing stands and an 18-0 run for the Panthers, during which St. Amour had two three-pointers and another and-one.

Liam Naughton '17 checked in and immediately whipped a nice pass to Eric McCord '19 under the basket, who finished with a reverse layup. Lycoming ended their scoring drought off a layup by Trent Bishop, though Folger answered, sinking a shot assisted by Brown from beyond the arc. With great ball movement and flinging the ball in transition, Middlebury looked like themselves.

By the end of the half the Panthers seemed to start to waver on defense. They began giving up opportunities on the defensive glass and repeatedly turned the ball over.

Luckily, they kept it going on the offensive end, as Jones recorded five-straight points, including an acrobatic reverse layup at the buzzer to send the Panthers into the locker room with a 20-point lead, 52-32.

The Panthers stayed engaged in the second half. St. Amour made it rain from behind the arc, going four-of-eight from three point land and challenged Folger's dunk for play of the game when, midway through the half, he deflected TJ Duckett's pass and as it was about to go out of bounds, flung it ahead in transition behind his back to Daly, who drew the foul and finished the layup at the other end. That prompted "M-V-P" chants from the crowd.

Middlebury tightened up its defense, forcing Lycoming to take contested mid-range jump shots for most of the half.

Folger had a career high 18 points, going six-of-13 from the field, while Brown put on a passing clinic with 10 assists. Strong contributions from Daly, Folger and Majors buoyed the offense, but Brown will look to return to his current shooting form — he's shooting a career-high 37 percent from long range — after scoring just six points on the whole weekend.

"The atmosphere was incredible," St. Amour said of this weekend's games. "It was by far the best crowd I've ever played in front of. It was a really special experience and we're so excited to be home next weekend.

"I think it showed some of the importance of sports [at Middlebury]. Especially after Thursday's events, it was cool to see everyone be able to come together and get behind one event as a whole school."

TOP-RANKED WOMEN'S LAX BEGINS TITLE DEFENSE WITH BIG W

By Jake Turtel
Staff Writer

Fresh off of last year's nearly perfect season, which brought the program its sixth national championship, the women's lacrosse team is eyeing another deep postseason run. Middlebury, however, lost several important players to graduation, including five of the team's top six scorers from last year including Laurel Pascal '16, Bridget Instrum '16 and Katie Mandigo '16.

Pascal was a three-time, first-team All-American, who also tied for the fifth most goals in women's lacrosse Middlebury history, 181, and scored them in only 82 games. Instrum was a second-team All-American, who tallied 156 points and Mandigo was last year's NCAA tournament most valuable player protecting the net. Nonetheless, the Panthers did not seem to miss much as they hosted Connecticut College for their season opener.

Women's Lacrosse trounced Conn. College 19-4 last Sunday, Feb. 5 setting the stage for another successful season. Conn. College's Annie Corbrooks scored first for the Camels just 42 seconds into the game. However, the Panthers soon took control. Hollis Perticone '18 tied the game with an assist from Mary O'Connell '17, and Henley Hall '19 put Middlebury ahead for good off an assist from Emma McDonagh '19 less than a minute later. Perticone netted her second goal of the game with an unassisted shot later in the half.

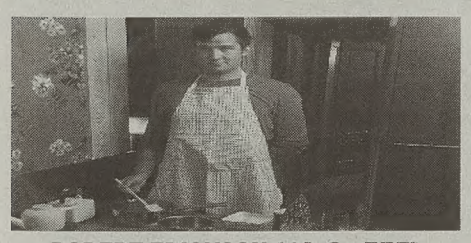
Middlebury had turned the ball over 10 fewer times than their opponents, and had ground balls — Conn. College's 11 to Middlebury's 18 — while Middlebury had more fouls (12) than Conn. College's six. Most importantly, Middlebury outshot Connecticut College by a huge margin of 30 to nine.

McDonagh had seven of those shots, while O'Connell paced the game in goals and assists, tallying four of each in the inaugural game of her senior season. Two Panther sophomores contributed four-point performances – Jenna McNicholas '19 (two goals, two assists) and McDonagh (three goals, one assist). Casey O'Neill '19 (one goal, two assists), and Henley Hall '19 (two goals, one assist) had three point performances, while freshman Emily Barnard '20 scored three goals to start her college career. Julia Keith '20 recorded her first collegiate win, recording two saves and one goal allowed in the first half of play.

Not recording a point but still impacting the game, Evie Keating '18 (a third-team All-American a season ago) picked up four ground balls and caused three turnovers. "It's a great feeling to start the season with such an impressive showing by both the offense and defense. We had first years and returners stepping into some key roles all over the field, which certainly bodes well for the rest of the season," says Keating.

The score could have been even more lopsided. After scoring 15 goals in the first half, Middlebury focused on possession for the second frame, giving numerous players chances to contribute to the victory. It's only one game, but what a start to their title defense.

EDITORS' PICKS

	Track and Field Championships: +/- 3.5 top-three finishes for the Panthers at NCAA Championships?	**What will be higher: goals scored by Women's Hockey in their first-round tournament game against Norwich, or goals allowed by Women's Lax against Tufts?**	**Double down: Does Jack Daly '18 put up a double-double against Endicott and/or their next opponent this weekend? If so, does he do it with assists or rebounds?**	**Chilifest!!! Does the Chilifest title go to an entry from Middlebury or from somewhere outside the town?**
SEBASTIAN SANCHEZ (18-9, .667)	Over. I'm with Rob on this one.	Women's lax. Hockey is too good right now to give up more than 3 goals.	Yes, with assists. Daly is gonna go off with a double-double in assists.	Outside. The chili outside of Middlebury is too delicious to lose to the competition.
WILL CASE (80-45, .640)	Over. The relay teams have been on fire and maybe an individual or two sneaks in there.	Lax goals against Look for both teams to get the dub, but it's a more likely outcome lax gives up more goals than women's hockey scores.	No. If he does, it'll be points and rebounds.	The field. The Middlebury-to-everywhere else chili ratio will be too much to overcome for the shire town of Addison County.
 **ROBERT ERICKSON (10-8, .555)**	Over. We'd get a million top-three finishes but I don't think there are enough events.	Women's lax goals against Women's lax gives up more goals since they're gonna be coasting in the second half.	Yes, with rebounds Triple-double if you count hustle points.	Outside. As much as I'd love for it to stay in Middlebury, the talent pool in the Burlington area is just too deep.
EMILY BUSTARD (88-93, .486)	Over. Especially with the fast relay teams we've seen this season.	Lax goals allowed Women's Hockey is good, but it's really hard to score 10 goals (the amount Tufts scored on Midd in their last matchup).	Yes, with rebounds. He can make it happen.	Outside Midd. Honestly idk. I'm just excited to eat chili.

IT'S GOOD TO BE BACK!!

MICHAEL O'HARA

ANOTHER CONFERENCE CROWN FOR HOCKEY

By Sebastian Sanchez
Sports Editor

This past weekend was filled with women's hockey as Middlebury hosted the NESCAC semifinals and championship games in Kenyon Arena on Saturday, March 4 and Sunday, March 5. Featuring the teams that had advanced from the past weekend's quarterfinal round, Saturday's matchups pitted the Panthers against Bowdoin College and Amherst College against against Conn. College.

From the opening faceoff, the Panthers controlled the puck and carried their momentum throughout the entire game. Even though the team didn't manage to score in the first stanza, the start of the second period highlighted Middlebury's talented roster as Allie Aiello '17 scored her first career goal on a beautiful give-and-go. Jessica Young '18 set up Aiello who was posted at the bottom of the right circle and slapped the puck through the padded hands of Bowdoin's goalie.

Maddie Winslow '18, who is Middlebury's second leading scorer, took over the puck on a five-on-three power play in the tenth minute of the second period. Captain Carly Watson '17 had directed the puck to Janka Hlinka '18 in the slot, who touched into to the left where Winslow sent it in for her 12th of the season.

Bowdoin, on the verge of what seemed like a shutout, broke through to score in the final minute of the second period after a scuffle at the front of Middlebury's net and the hosts headed into the final stanza with a 2-1 lead.

Middlebury, however, owned the third period — the Panthers outshot the Polar Bears 15-0, scoring the third goal on a shot from the right circle by Jenna Marotta '19, her first of the season. Having fallen behind by two, Bowdoin looked all but defeated and an exclamation point was stamped on Middlebury's win as Young sealed the deal on a pass from Hlinka for her 15th of the season.

Middlebury played true to their speed, agility and defense — Neuberger tallied nine saves and gave up one goal, the Panthers outshot the Polar Bears 35-10, Young extended her point-streak to six games and the team looked the best it has all season.

"Our team chemistry has had its fair shares of ups and downs this year," said Young. "But this past month we have really come together as a team and played for each other more than anything else. I think that really showed this weekend."

Facing a classic NESCAC rival in Amherst, Middlebury was prepared to leave it all on the ice in Sunday's tilt. They played with grit and determination to win the NESCAC championship for the second straight year and the ninth time since the championship's inception in 2002.

The Purple and White struck first, however, sending Amherst fans into an excited frenzy. As one might expect when the home team is behind, Middlebury fans quieted down somewhat and the air in the arena was tense and nervous all throughout the first period.

The anxiety did not last long. In the 15th minute of the second period, Middlebury tied the game 1-1. Anna Zumwinkle '20, who along with Lizzie Sheline '20 is having an impressive first-year campaign, put a shot on goal that rebounded and was redirected by Sheline to Hlinka, who one-timed it into the back of the net. The hosts took the lead for good two minutes later when Young received a pass from Sheline and blasted a shot pass Amherst's goalie for her team-leading 16th of the season.

Middlebury continued its campaign with a goal by Sheline to take a 3-1 lead. Sheline, who was awarded the NESCAC Rookie of the Year, collected a pass in the slot from Young and beat the Purple and White goalie glove side for her eighth of the season.

Trailing 3-1, Amherst could not answer any of Middlebury's goals and Watson sealed the deal with 43 seconds left after Amherst pulled their goalie for her sixth of the season. Time expired and the arena exploded into cheers as fans watched the repeat champs celebrate on the ice.

"Winning back to back championships is an amazing feeling and just a testament to how hard we have been working this past month," said an excited Young.

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Victory Tastes Sweet

By Phil Bohlman
Senior Writer

On Friday and Saturday, March 3 and 4, the men's basketball team defeated Farmingdale State and Lycoming to advance to the NCAA Sectional Semifinals — the Sweet 16 — of the Division III Men's Basketball Tournament.

Middlebury will host Endicott on Friday, March 10, at 7:30 p.m. If they beat the Gulls, the Panthers will face the winner of no. 17 Susquehanna and Williams on Saturday, March 11, at 7 p.m.

Endicott was one of three teams to defeat Middlebury this season, as the Panthers fell 93-89 back in Pepin. However, that was all the way back in November and Middlebury blew a 12-point halftime lead. Endicott mounted a comeback in the second half, scoring 57 points on 60 percent shooting. Jake Brown '17 fouled out early, playing just 7 minutes in the second half. Endicott upset no. 16 Salisbury in the first round of the tournament and blew out Nichols by 36 points in the second round — Middlebury is up against a team in top form.

"We're just treating it like another game," Brown said when asked about their Endicott rematch. "Obviously everyone is pretty pumped to get to play them again, but I think this time around we're a little more comfortable playing with a lead. We're just trying to stay focused and continue to have fun."

On Friday night, Middlebury defeated Farmingdale State 84-75 behind double-doubles from Jack Daly '18, 18 points, 10 rebounds, 6 assists and Adisa Majors '18, who had 18 points and a career-high 11 rebounds.

Though Farmingdale got out to an early 8-2 lead, tenacious play by Daly kept Middlebury in the game. He repeatedly pushed the ball in transition after every defensive rebound and finished with skill, displaying impressive body control and timing as he contorted around and flicked floaters over bigger defenders. He had 12 points in the half, one more than Farmingdale guard Matthew Graham, who was the backbone of the visitor's offense in the frame.

The Panthers' interior defense wwas inconsistent, but careless turnovers by the Rams and tenacious defense by the Panther guards — St. Amour had three steals in the half and Brown had two — helped the home team keep it competitive. Though Middlebury led for a possession, Farmingdale retook the lead by the end of the half to make it 36-32.

Middlebury shook off their nerves and settled into their offense in the second half. They went back and forth with Farmingdale in the first few minutes, drawing even at 36-36 and 40-40 before going on an 14-2 run. Majors was key, showing his inside-outside game by scoring both in the mid-range and at the basket with his array of spin and face-up moves.

After a Farmingdale timeout, Matt Folger '20 and St. Amour

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